FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

8 MAY 1984

Libya

Shooting in Tripoli — "Heavy shooting" broke out 8 May around Al-Aliziyah barracks, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's headquarters, according to a diplomatic source in Tripoli cited by AFP. A 15-man commando group attacked the barracks, the agency said. According to BBC, it is not known if the shooting was linked to an attempt against the Libyan leader.

Dispute With UK — Britain's "frenzied campaign" of police harassment, arrests, and "savage torture and terror" on "direct orders" from the prime minister "will not pass peacefully," the Libyan newspaper *AZ-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR* warned according to JANA. The paper announced that arrests of Libyan students and tourists and false accusations against them in British courts will prompt the revolutionary committees to "engage in a violent backlash" against British citizens residing in Libya, JANA reported.

Meanwhile, Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio claimed that members of the "terrorist group" that carried out the "criminal action" against the Libyan People's Bureau in London, which is "protected and managed" by the British Government, were apprehended trying to enter Libya from Tunisia. The group intended to carry out assassinations and sabotage in Libya, the radio alleged.

Lebanon

Political Situation — Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri will be appointed minister of state for the affairs of the south and reconstruction in addition to his other ministerial posts, Prime Minister Rashid Karami confirmed in a statement broadcast by Beirut radio. Birri noted that his conditions for joining the Cabinet have now been met and stressed the need for a "jihad" to liberate the south, unite and reconstruct the country, and achieve "justice," the radio reported. Meanwhile, Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt agreed to join the Cabinet and, although former President Sulayman Franjiyah maintained his critical stand on the Cabinet issue, he will not place any "burden" on the national unity government, the radio said. Birri and Junblatt were encouraged to participate in the government because the whole Cabinet is to function as the Higher Defense Council, according to opposition sources cited by the radio.

Security/Military Situation — As militiamen in West Beirut fired into the air to celebrate Birri's appointment, Phalangist artillery positions in East Beirut opened fire at the western sector "in an attempt to exploit and torpedo the situation," Beirut radio asserted. Voice of Lebanon radio reported that Syrian artillery south of Al-Batrun fired at an Israeli gunboat offshore. The vessel was not hit and returned the fire, the radio said. Damascus radio did not confirm the firing but reported Israeli naval movements off the Lebanese coast, describing them as part of the "acts of provocation" by the Israeli invasion forces.

Syria on Radar Station — Noting reports that an Israeli-U.S. team has established a radar station south of Jazzin linked to a NATO ship patrolling the Lebanese coast, an *AL-BA'TH* editorial reviewed by Damascus radio urged the Arabs to take a "serious" view of this project, which could turn the Israeli plan into an "American network enjoying all the advantages of modern U.S. technology." Syria will not allow such hostile activities on Lebanese soil to become a "fait accompli," the paper added.

Israel

Shamir Interview — Israel has no additional military goals in Lebanon and is not interested in remaining there, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated in an interview with Jerusalem radio. He reaffirmed that Israel will be able to withdraw the IDF after it has made arrangements that guarantee "Galilee's" security against terrorist attacks.

TNT Threat to Austria — The Israeli Terror Against Terror (TNT) organization has written journalists in Vienna demanding that Austrian authorities halt their "anti-Israel" policy and warning that TNT will have no pity for "pro-Arab circles" in the Austrian leadership, Jerusalem radio reported. The letter accused former Chancellor Bruno Kreisky of betraying the Jews.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi planes struck "two large naval targets" believed to have been carrying oil from Khark Island, Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio announced, citing a military spokesman. Radio Monte Carlo quoted reports from London that the Saudi oil tanker *Uhud* "was hit by a missile" when the ship was 80 miles from Khark.

PLO Affairs

Jordanian-Palestinian Talks — Jordanian-Palestinian talks have reached the "point of agreement and coordination" and have "come close" to a "confederation project," the Jordanian newspaper *AD-DUSTUR* claimed. A Jordanian-Palestinian delegation has been formed to tour Arab and Islamic states to inform them of the results of the talks, the paper added.

PLO Operations — The PLO will escalate its military operations against the Israeli forces in the occupied territories in the "coming few days," PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir disclosed according to Baghdad Voice of PLO radio. Al-Wazir said Fatah is planning "painful blows" against the enemy.

Algiers Meetings — Fatah Central Committee Member Salah Khalaf arrived in Algeria for consultations with the PFLP and the DFLP, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported. Khalaf and DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah were received by President Chadli Bendjedid, Algiers radio announced.

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Fatah Delegation Will Visit Moscow 26 May

JN072032 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1950 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Tunis, 7 May (INA) — The Palestinian news agency, WAFA, said tonight that a Fatah Central Committee delegation will visit Moscow on the 26th of this month at the invitation of the Soviet leadership. It added that during the visit, the delegation will hold important talks with senior Soviet party and state officials on the latest Middle East and Palestinian developments on all levels.

PLO's New Ambassador to USSR Arrives in Moscow

LD041012 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0935 GMT 4 May 84

[Text] Moscow, 4 May (KUNA) — Sakhr Habash, alias Abu Nizar, the PLO's new ambassador to the Soviet Union, has arrived in Moscow. Mr Habash replaces the late Muhammad Ibrahim ash-Sha'ir who died last year in Sofia after a short illness. The new Palestinian diplomatic representative is expected to present his letters of credence to the Soviet Foreign Ministry next week.

Sakhr Habash is the secretary of the Revolutionary Council of the Palestinian national liberation movement, Fatah, and he is well known in Palestinian cultural circles in his capacity as a poet and a man of letters.

Al-Wazir Says Military Operations To Escalate

JN071727 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has stressed that the coming few days will witness an escalation of Palestinian military operations against the Zionist occupation forces in the occupied homeland. Abu Jihad said the Fatah movement is planning for painful blows against the enemy.

On the other hand, in a telephone contact with the Kuwaiti paper *AL-QABAS* yesterday, Brother Abu Jihad stressed the Fatah movement's determination to convene the PNC before the blessed month of Ramadan. He said a meeting of the three Palestinian factions, the Fatah movement, the PFLP, and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine will be held in Aden on Thursday.

Abu al-Adib on Escalation

GF071932 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 May 84

[Excerpt] Brother Abu al-Adib, member of the Fatah Central Committee and deputy chairman of the PNC, said the PLO will hold contacts in all international circles to raise the provocative issue of the Zionist occupation authorities regarding the special return permits.

In a press interview published in Kuwait today, he affirmed that the Palestinian resistance will escalate its operations inside the occupied territories as a response to the recent Zionist decisions regarding those permits, pointing out that the occupation authorities have adopted those decisions to be sure of the level of the Palestinian, Arab and international response. Brother Abu al-Adib said the PLO will support the steadfastness operations and help the Palestinians to stay in the occupied territories. He called on them to raise the struggle slogan in the occupied territories even if they fear their jobs abroad. At the conclusion of his statement, he called on the Arab countries to cover the expenses of the Palestinians' return to their country to hold firm to it.

PLO's Khalil al-Wazir on Past Algerian Meeting

LD041122 Kuwait KUNA in English 1034 GMT 4 May 84

[Text] Kuwait, May 4 (KUNA) — A senior Palestinian official has lauded results of the Algeria meeting between a number of Palestinian movements. Deputy General Commander of the Palestinian Revolutionary Forces Khalil al-Wazir (better known as Abu Jihad) told the Kuwaiti daily *AS-SIYASAH* that the conferees at the Algeria meeting were maintaining a spirit of national responsibility. Representatives from the mainstream commando movement, Fatah, the Palestinian Communist Party, the Democratic Front for Liberation of Palestine, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Palestinian Liberation Front attended the meeting. The conferees approved the importance of the PLO's unity and the continuation of its legitimate bodies, he elaborated.

Asked on whether he expected a Syrian-Israeli confrontation because of the seizure of three Israelis in Lebanon by Syrian forces, Abu Jihad said that "We should be always on the alert against Israeli aggressive intentions."

PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will not visit Cairo or meet with a senior Syrian official in the near future, Al-Wazir said in reply to a question on the spread of such reports.

The deputy commander said that it was up to the Palestine National Council to decide on the fate of Palestinian dissidents who are still members of the council. Al-Wazir said attempts to create an alternate Palestine liberation organization, called for by Syria and Libya, have failed.

Reportage on Upcoming PLO Meeting in Algiers

Hawatimah Departs Syria

LD051636 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1417 GMT 5 May 84

[Text] Damascus 5 May (KUNA) — Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine leader Nayif Hawatimah left here today for Algeria within the framework of intense efforts that he is exerting with the PFLP to reunite the PLO and mend the relations between the Fatah leadership and Syria. It has been mentioned the visit is a response to an invitation from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, whose country and the PDRY have played a major role in organizing the meetings in Algiers between the Fatah leadership and the alliance of the DFLP, PFLP, PLF, and Palestinian Communist Party that are aimed at reaching a solution for the disputes within the PLO.

A DFLP spokesman said Mr Hawatimah will talk with the Algerian leaders concerning the Palestinian situation "in the light of Aden initiative to restore the unity of the PLO and of the recent Algiers discussions" that were held at the end of last month between Fatah and the four organizations. He pointed out that the discussion will also include "the joint initiative by Algeria and the PDRY to solve the dispute between Syria and Fatah." The spokesman said Mr Hawatimah will inform President Bendjedid "about the results of the front's contacts with a number of Syrian leaders concerning the initiative of Algeria and PDRY, and the views of the Syrian leadership concerning this initiative."

Salah Khalaf, Delegation Arrive

LD071035 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Algiers, 7 May (APS) — On Sunday Mr Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], member of the Fatah Central Committee, arrived in Algeria heading a delegation that includes Mr Abu Mazin, member of the Fatah Central Committee and the PLO Executive Committee; Mr 'Abbas Zaki, member of the Fatah Revolutionary Council; and Dr Isam Kamil Salim, the PLO representative to Berlin.

At Houari Boumedeine International Airport, Mr Abu Iyad was received by Mr Sadek Zouaten, member of the permanent secretariat for external relations, and Mr Abu al-'Izz, the PLO representative to Algeria.

In a short statement to the press, Mr Abu Iyad pointed out his visit comes within the framework of the consultations among the Palestinians and discussions of the current situation in the Arab world and developments in the Palestinian issue. Mr Abu Iyad mentioned that the 16th session of the PNC in Algiers has effectively contributed to closing the ranks of the Palestinian revolution. This, as he said, is what makes us feel the unity of the Palestinian ranks in Algeria more than anywhere else.

Further on Arrival Statement

JN071724 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Fatah Central Committee member, arrived in Algeria last night. In a press statement at the airport Abu Iyad said his visit comes within the framework of consultations among the the three Palestinian factions—Fatah, the PFLP, and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] and discussions of the current situation in the Arab arena. Brother Abu Iyad said the Fatah movement insists on holding Palestinian dialogue for restoring unity to PLO ranks before the Israeli elections so the PLO may emerge as a unified front with a stronger position.

Fatah Refuses Postponement

GF041427 Doha QNA in Arabic 1310 GMT 4 May 84

[Text] Amman, 4 May (QNA) — It was mentioned here today that Fatah movement has rejected a request by the PDRY to postpone the Palestinian dialogue conference, scheduled to be held in Algiers on 9 May. A Palestinian source informed the QNA correspondent in Amman that the PDRY ambassador in Damascus held a telephone contact over this issue with Mr Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad), head of the Fatah delegation to the conference, and that Abu Jihad informed the PDRY ambassador the Fatah delegation will leave for Algiers as scheduled to attend the conference.

Postponement Till 16 May Reported

JN072055 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Informed sources in Algiers said the meeting scheduled to be held in Algiers on Wednesday for the various Palestinian resistance groups has been postponed until the 16th of this month. These sources indicated that this postponement was necessitated by the need to wait for the results of the Algerian mediation between Syria and the Fatah movement.

A Palestinian official close to the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine has announced that the PNC will not convene before 2 months.

Egyptian Weekly Interviews Yasir 'Arafat

NC070739 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0700 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Cairo, 7 May (MENA) — Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, has affirmed that the ongoing events in the Arab arena cannot be tackled at the local or regional level, but must be tackled on the pan-Arab level.

In an interview with the weekly *MAY* published today, Yasir 'Arafat pointed out that the restoration of balance to the area requires first, Egypt's return to playing its leading role; second, the halting of the Iraqi-Iranian war; and third, the termination of disputes in North Africa so the Arab Maghreb could perform its role in our area.

Alluding to the events in southern Sudan, Yasir 'Arafat cautioned that what is going on there is an extension of the sectarian division plan in the Arab world. 'Arafat affirmed that the [strength of the] Israeli Army is a myth rather than reality, adding: It was irrefutably proven during the siege of Beirut that the war being waged by the people is the most successful war that can confront the Israeli Army, which is always protected by a superpower. This army, 'Arafat added, entered Beirut only when the resistance left it. 'Arafat lauded the abrogation of the Lebanese-Israeli accord.

'Arafat Pays Goodwill Visit to DPRK 8 May

For Pyongyang reportage on the visit of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to the DPRK, including an arrival greeting by DPRK Premier Kang Song-san, see the North Korea section of the 8 May Asia & Pacific *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

As-Sa'iqah Official Denounces 'Arafat Statement

JN040830 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 4 May 84

[Text] Tripoli — The Popular Liberation War Vanguards Organization—As-Sa'iqah forces—in Libya has deplored and denounced Yasir 'Arafat's recent treasonous statements on his readiness to negotiate with and recognize the Zionist entity, and his viewing armed struggle as a kind of terrorism. The representative of the organization in Tripoli asserted these treasonous statements make it incumbent on all the Palestinian and Arab forces, factions, and personalities that oppose the line of treason and capitulation to unify their ranks and carry out their urgent tasks of confronting 'Arafat's line of capitulation. He reiterated the need for the support of the Arab and Palestinian masses and their nationalist and progressive forces to defeat this line; affirm commitment to the Palestinian national charter and the PNC resolutions hostile to imperialism, Zionism, and reactionaryism; and realize the Palestinian people's aim in unity, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil, Palestine.

'High-Powered' Arab League Group Visits Portugal

LD062304 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 6 May 84

[Text] A high-powered delegation of the Arab League, led by the foreign ministers of Morocco and Tunisia, is in Lisbon for talks with Foreign Minister Jaime Gama. The subjects on the agenda are the Iran-Iraq conflict, the Arab countries' apprehension that foreign embassies might be moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, and the general situation in the Middle East.

WAFA Says Explosion Shakes Beersheba Prison

JN051822 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1720 GMT 5 May 84

[Text] Tunis, 5 May (INA) — The Palestinian news agency WAFA said that a big explosion shook the Beersheba prison at noon today. Nothing was revealed about the explosion until this afternoon. However, large concentrations from the Army and the Zionist police rushed to the prison and besieged it.

Citing urgent reports from the occupied territories, WAFA said it is not known what is happening in the prison, and that the Zionist jailers were placed on a state of alert. Police versions of the explosion were contradictory. At first, police said the explosion occurred in the section of the Jewish nonpolitical prisoners but later said the explosive charge was hurled at the jailers' cell.

BAHRAIN

Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Arrives in Manama

GF061824 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 May 84

[Excerpt] Manama, 6 May (WAKH) — Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Kaya Erden, and the delegation accompanying him, arrived in Manama this evening on a 2-day visit to Bahrain during which will attend the ceremony of opening the executive office for the Turkish bank of Ziraat Bankasi which will be held tomorrow.

Amir Receives Turkish Guest

GF071139 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0845 GMT 7 May 84

[Excerpt] Manama, 7 May (WAKH) — The Bahraini Amir His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah received here this morning Kaya Erden, Turkish deputy prime minister and minister of state for financial affairs, and the members of the delegation accompanying him, who are currently visiting Manama.

Minister Leaves for Kuwait OAPEC Meetings

GF071854 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1805 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Manama, 7 May (WAKH) — Yusuf Ahmad ash-Shirawi, Bahraini minister of development and industry and acting minister of state for cabinet affairs, left Manama for Kuwait this evening to attend the OAPEC ministerial committee meeting. The conference will discuss the organization's 5-year plan which has been set up by the committee consisting of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain and Tunisia which will hold a meeting on Tuesday to prepare for the ministerial meeting to be held on Wednesday.

Amir Receives Message From Chernenko

GF060450 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 6 May 84 p 1

[Text] HH the amir has received a cable of thanks from Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko in reply to his congratulatory message following the president's election to the head of the Soviet Supreme Defense Council. [as published]

Briefs

New Ambassador to Spain — Madrid, 6 May (WAKH) — Spanish King Juan Carlos today received the credentials of Bahrain's nonresident ambassador, Dr Salman Muhammad as-Sabbagh. [Manama WAKH in Arabic 1430 GMT 6 May 84 GF]

KUWAIT

French Economic Minister Arrives for Visit 6 May

LD062135 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 2100 GMT 6 May 84

[Text] Kuwait 6 May (KUNA — Jacques Delors, the French minister of economy, finance, and budget, arrived tonight with a delegation. He was welcomed by Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Adhbi as-Sabah, the minister of oil and minister of finance. In a statement to KUNA, he said his visit to Kuwait aims at strengthening the relations between the two countries, particularly in the technical, economic, and scientific fields.

Meets Amir, Other Officials

LD071106 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0957 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Kuwait, 7 May (KUNA) — The French minister of economy, finance, and budget, Jacques Delores, conferred here today with the amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah. The meeting was attended by the members of delegation accompanying the French minister, the Kuwaiti minister of oil and of finance, Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Adhbi as-Sabah, the French ambassador to Kuwait, and the Kuwaiti ambassador to France.

Interior Minister on Visit Laws, GCC Security

GF061800 Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 5 May 84 p 2

[Interview with Minister of Interior Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah, by *AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM* correspondent Hamad Jasim as-Sa'id — no date or place given]

[Excerpts][Hamad as-Sa'id] Many laws have been issued amending the visit and residence law by which a family member is allowed to join his dependent. Do you think this serves the country's interest? In your view, does it have any negative effects?

[Nawwaf al-Ahmad] No change has been effected in the foreigners' residence law issued under Amiri Decree No 17 in 1959 except the recent amendment which was issued under Decree No 55 for 1982 whereby articles Nos 10, 14, 15 and 24 were amended. Article No 10 allowed a foreign visitor a maximum stay in the country of 30 days, after which he should leave unless he obtains permission to stay from the Ministry of Interior. Generally speaking, the laws of visits, residence and joining dependents have not been changed, except to ensure more accuracy and to serve the country's supreme interest.

[As-Sa'id] Is there an inclination to open the door for visitors?

[Nawwaf al-Ahmad] The visit law has never been closed; rather, as we pointed out, circumstances have required more accuracy in implementing the provisions of the relative law.

[As-Sa'id] On the Gulf security level, what about security cooperation among the Gulf countries?

[Al-Ahmad] Gulf security cooperation is proceeding according to a plan. The meetings of the GCC interior ministers are always devoted to discussion of new security developments in the region, and the ministers always adopt resolutions and recommendations to face these developments one by one; cooperation among the GCC countries in various security fields, including the exchange of expertise, exists. Also there is security coordination among the GCC countries, thank God. The reason is that all are aware of the fact that the region's security is indivisible.

[As-Sa'id] There has been much talk about the joint security agreement. What about this agreement? Has Kuwait offered any new proposals in this respect?

[Al-Ahmad] Kuwait's attitude to the joint security agreement was made public and there has been nothing new. We support the agreement provided that it does not conflict with the country's constitutions and laws.

[As-Sa'id] Has there been any inclination to modernize the Interior Ministry organs, particularly security ones, after the recent incidents and the increasing problems, particularly infiltration attempts?

[Al-Ahmad] Regardless of the recent incidents, there is a need to modernize the security organs just as there is a continued need to modernize all aspects of life in view of the new international developments and the country's security requirements under the current circumstances and in the future. The Interior Ministry was recently reorganized to meet these developments; and recently the land and sea border checkpoints were furnished with the most advanced equipment to enable them to carry out their duties satisfactorily.

Assembly Official Interviewed on Various Issues

GF071430 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 5 May 84 pp 22, 23

[Part I of interview with National Assembly Deputy Speaker Ahmad as-Sa'dun by *AL-ANBA'* correspondent Bibi al-Marzuq in Kuwait — date not given]

[Excerpts] [Bibi al-Marzuq] What are the reasons behind your presentation of the draft resolution for ministers' trials in office? Do you think that this draft law will be approved, especially since the 16 ministers have the right to vote on this project?

[Ahmad as-Sa'dun] In fact, I have presented this draft with a number of assembly colleagues — the draft law on ministers' trials — for one main reason: to complete the legislation, because despite Article 132 of the Constitution, the law on ministers has not yet been passed. It became necessary to correct this shortcoming. I hope that the assembly will agree on the draft. I personally do not think that the brother ministers will oppose the draft because this stand, in my view, will raise questions.

[Al-Marzuq] The law on Kuwaiti citizenship in the view of some people is unfair for those who were born and live in this country. What do you think is the best solution for those who have no citizenship and why?

[As-Sa'dun] In my view, despite some shortcomings in the law of Kuwaiti citizenship, the deficiency is not in the law, but its implementation. The law in many articles defines those who have the right to Kuwaiti nationality by birth and those who can obtain it by naturalization. No doubt the issue of Kuwaiti nationality is one of the most complicated, but what makes it more complicated is that no serious step has been taken to resolve it. The number of applications for citizenship from different countries and from those who have fulfilled residence conditions defined in Articles Nos 4 and 5 has reached 46,229. Despite the fact that these applications have reached 72,000 [as published] and had been on file a long time, regretfully no measures have been taken. So I think before talking about solving the issue of citizenship in Kuwait, we should adopt specific steps to define the issue and understand its dimensions.

In my view, no one has the right to deprive a person of his rights of citizenship, and measures should be taken immediately on this matter. This does not need any decision. Anyone whose documents completely prove that he is Kuwaiti by birth or has lived in Kuwait before 1920 should be granted his rights. On the other hand, if his documents prove to be false and inaccurate, his applications should be rejected because he has submitted false statements and consequently he is not a Kuwaiti by birth as he claims to be. In my view, such a person should be denied the right for naturalization because he began his life with us by submitting false data and cheated us. He who can prove his information to be correct has a right and should be granted citizenship, while the one who cannot prove this should not only be rejected but also should be denied citizenship by naturalization. However such matters should be settled in a definite period of time. In my view this period should not exceed one year during which 25,857 applications have to be reviewed by investigation committees and a higher committee which can make decisions.

In my opinion, the issue should be solved and not be suspended because those who have the right should get it and those who submitted false data should not be granted citizenship, at least by birth. [sentence as published]

[Al-Marzuq] A germ called administrative corruption has spread in Kuwait. Why did this happen? And what are the best ways to remedy this phenomenon in your opinion?

[As-Sa'dun] With great regret, there are many reasons for the notoriety of this phenomenon. In my opinion, they are the loss of responsibility in some state organs, clash of specializations, the bad conscience of some of the administrative leaderships, weakness of supervision or even its non-existence, ease of exploitation of power, exchange of interests, and many other affairs. Regrettably, all these diseases afflicted the employment body and rendered the good and sincere elements unable to carry out any changes or to play their role in a reformation. Not only that, but the matter reached the point of fighting and harrassing a great number of these elements. In my opinion, until now, despite our knowledge of the administrative organ situation and what has happened in it, and even the great volume of talk on it, there have not been serious endeavors to reform some parts. In my opinion, so that there will be serious endeavors to reform it, the National Assembly and the legislatory authority must exercise their supervisory role, as mentioned in an earlier answer.

[Al-Marzuq] You have indicated the possibility of buying the votes of some electors in some constituencies. What are the negative effects of this buying on the election constituency?

[As-Sa'dun] Whoever tries to reach the assembly by buying votes, by buying people's consciences, and through bribery, I believe, that such a person will not be of any use to the public. Whoever buys votes will also inevitably sell them at a higher price. The buying operation has taken various forms.

I cannot imagine that whoever tries to buy his seat in the National Assembly does it in the public interest. Whoever tries to buy a seat does so to sell it afterward at a higher price at the expense of the state, which is a negative phenomenon.

We believe it is the responsibility of all of us to fight such an inclination. We will fight the buying of votes.

Part II
GF071700 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 6 May 84 pp 9, 26

[Part II of interview with National Assembly Deputy Speaker Ahmad as-Sa'dun by *AL-ANBA'* correspondent Bibi al-Marzuq in Kuwait — date not given]

[Excerpts] [Bibi al-Marzuq] Did you expect the explosions which took place last year? Do you agree with the closed rather than public trials? Do you believe that the sentences equal this crime? In your view, will these sentences be carried out and why?

[Ahmad as-Sa'dun] No one can expect what happens. Otherwise, he would prevent it. However, I believe we should have not ruled out [such incidents] when we live in a country with more than 60 percent of its population non-nationals and various nationalities and in a country situated in a region of continual conflict. The Lebanese war, for example, has entered its 10th year. No one denies that it exported to Kuwait all the contradictions among the Lebanese parties through those who emigrated to us. We do not rule out that this contradiction will probably explode among them in Kuwait because of their presence here.

Also, the Gulf war has entered its 4th year and in Kuwait there are all the contradictions of this war. This too has some effect one way or another. There is a considerable number of Palestinian brothers with the contradictions which took place inside the Palestinian body. Whether we accept it or not, this will have a certain effect. Thank God, nothing took place among them in Kuwait. At least we should expect some of these elements to be used by some parties to sow disturbances and unrest in Kuwait. We cannot prevent this, but we can make access to our vital installations and security centers not as easy as it was before. Perhaps the incidents will be a lesson for us to review our security measures around our vital and basic installations.

With regard to the trials, I believe that the judicial authority, which we are proud of, decided what serves this country's interest. We should not allow our feelings to judge those who disrupted our country's security. Rather, the verdict is usually passed according to the evidence made available to the specialized judiciary authority. In this light, I have full confidence in the sentences issued by the state's supreme security court and I believe that it took into consideration all faces of justice and that the verdicts are fair. As for the possibility of implementing them, I cannot talk about this because the Constitution authorizes the head of state to decide on it, and his decision is vital and respectable. We cannot be more concerned with the state's security than the head of state himself.

[Al-Marzuq] Do you favor the idea of holding closed or public sessions for the trials on the explosions?

[As-Sa'dun] Closed sessions are needed only in very rare cases when it is decided that cases are related to security or touch the supreme interest of the country or cannot be discussed in public. In my view, some of the closed sessions could have been made public because the people have the right to listen to the points discussed during these sessions and understand what was going on in them. I do not approve of the idea of holding closed sessions except in extraordinary cases when the state's security is involved.

[Al-Marzuq] What are the reasons for the appearance of leaflets in Kuwait, particularly when the Kuwaiti community enjoys freedom of expression? Do you believe that the reasons are domestic or foreign, and what are the best means for ending this?

[As-Sa'dun] I have studied one of the leaflets distributed at Kuwait University recently. I cannot determine if its source is foreign or domestic, but it represents concerned sides. In Kuwait there is freedom of expression, and no one who has Kuwait's welfare in mind can contribute to such leaflets. Whoever seeks the country's welfare has the chance to express his view publicly. The best means to stop this is by trying to find out who is issuing them. They may be issued by a group of people on a regular basis. I believe it is the responsibility of the security organs to try to find their source and follow them up, because we do not accept such contradictions of the law. A person who loves this country cannot issue such leaflets; the last leaflet I read called for agitation and conflict, and this is something that cannot be accepted and should be denounced.

[Al-Marzuq] The joint security agreement has generated much reaction. In your view, why is this?

[As-Sa'dun] The text of the joint security agreement has not officially reached us. However, I have been able to put my hands on a number of copies from more than one source. After reading it and Kuwait's proposed amendments to it, I can say that it is not good. Indeed, some parts of it are bad and it is not strange to me that Kuwait, Kuwaiti officials, and the Kuwiati Government have rejected it because some of its parts openly contravene Kuwait's constitution, with regard to the freedom of speech. That is why so much reaction has been generated: because its provision will lead ultimately to the muffling of mouths, and that is why the government rejected it before it reached us.

[Al-Marzuq] Some say that the recent incidents and explosions in Kuwait probably require the joint security agreement to be implemented as a precautionary measure in the Gulf region or at least in the GCC countries.

[As-Sa'dun] I doubt this because the explosions cannot be a reason for Kuwait to accept today what it rejected yesterday. In my view, Kuwait will continue to reject it so long as the provisions that clash with Kuwait's constitution are not changed. I do not think that explosions will expedite Kuwait's approval of the security agreement it rejected before.

Briefs

New Ambassador to Sudan — Muhammad Yusuf al-'Adasani, speaker of the National Assembly, yesterday received 'Abdallah as-Sari' on the occasion of his appointment as Kuwait's ambassador to Sudan. [Text] [Kuwait *AL-WATAN* in Arabic 30 Apr 84 p 3 GF]

TV Information Service — Kuwait's Communications Ministry is all set to launch a TV information service. Initially the service, which will provide economic and financial data, will be available to 1,000 companies and banks and 300 homes, but will later be extended to include 10,000 subscribers. The manager of the project Ya'qub as-Sabti, said the service would be launched within the next few months, once technical tests were completed and fees agreed. At the moment, data is being collected from ministries and public and private companies to include in the service. The service will be run from the R'as Salmiyah telephone exchange and will operate from 7am to 10pm. [Text [Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 6 May 84 p4 GF]

QATAR

Heir Apparent Receives British Chief of Staff

GF071148 Doha QNA in Arabic 1110 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Doha, 7 May (QNA) — His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent, defense minister, and commander in chief of the Qatari Armed Forces, received at the army headquarters this morning British Chief of Staff Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall on the occasion of his visit to the State of Qatar. After the British chief of staff was welcomed and wished a successful visit, relations between Qatar and Britain and issues of mutual concern, especially in the military fields, were comprehensively reviewed. The meeting was attended by Brigadier General Muhammad 'Abdallah al-'Atiyah, deputy commander in chief of the Qatari Armed Forces; Stephen Day, British ambassador in Qatar; and a number of senior Qatari Army officers.

British Chief of Staff Departs

GF071602 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1440 GMT 7 May 84

[Excerpt] Doha, 7 May (WAKH) — British Chief of Staff Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall left Doha this afternoon following a 2-day visit to Qatar.

SAUDI ARABIA

Guinean Prime Minister Winds Up Visit

GF071140 Jidda Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Guinean Prime Minister Colonel Diara Traore left Jidda for Cairo today. He was seen off by Prince Majid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, mayorof Mecca; 'Abd al-'Aziz (Bisdar), director of the royal protocol branch in Jidda; Major General Salih (as-Sibayr), commander of the western region; the Guinean ambassador to the Kingdom; and a number of other officials.

Arab-Americans Counter Israeli Influence

LD052251 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 May 84

[From "News and Comment" program by Husayn al-'Askari]

[Text] At the end of last week 80 representatives of the National Association for Arab-Americans met a number of members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives to discuss and examine American policy toward the Arab-Israeli conflict in general and the issue of moving the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

The Arab presence in the United States has its roots in the identity of that country, in its civilized and scientific structure the Arab person has participated and is still participating. Experts of Arab origin who are American nationals are involved in the space industry, in fields of advanced science and technology, and in many aspects of life. Thus the Arab presence in the United States has a direct and effective influence on that country's development and position at the top of the advanced countries of the world. This means it was inevitable that the Arab presence would be felt in political decisions, because of the beneficial participation of this presence in making the American nation prosperous. This American nation was united, in spite of the diversity of the races and kinds, by belonging to one homeland whose melting pot has gathered every people, and its prosperity has resulted from this.

The Arab-American person has always done, and still does his duty towards his new homeland with all sincerity and dedication. This person has the right to have his voice heard and to have an effective position in the process of decision making. This seems to be what the Arab-Americans have felt in the shadow of the escalation of the Zionist movements on the American arena, not only since the establishment of the Zionist entity on the land of Arab Palestine, but before that, when the Jewish presence in America was, as it still is, an element of evil which tries to capture the American person and transform him into a follower. This sort of follower works according to the orders and direction of the Jewish lobby to the point where the practices and blackmail of this lobby started to constitute a danger against the national interests of the American people.

This is why the move of the Arab-American elements to face up to the Jewish challenge in American society comes at the right time, when the feeling of disgust for Israeli practices, which the Zionist lobby and its friends in the United States try to protect, has increased. There is no doubt that the move of the Arab-Americans at this particular moment to present the issues of their mother country to the American citizen and his leadership, this move constitutes a strong current and pressure for exposing the Zionist practices in Arab Palestine. These practices increase in ferocity day after day because of the support from the Zionist lobby and those who sympathize with it in American society. The appearance of Arab powers on the American arena not only constitutes a sure guarantee for explaining the issues of the Arab world to the American citizen, but constitutes a barrier which protects the joint and mutual interests of the Arab nation and the American people.

PDRY

Chairman Receives Soviet Leader's Cable

GF051734 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 May 84

[Cable sent by Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, to 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers — date not given]

[Text] We thank you for the heartfelt congratulations and the warmest wishes on the occasion of my appointment as chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. On the basis of loyalty and the agreement of friendship and cooperation with the PDRY, the Soviet Union will continue using all means to develop and strengthen relations in various aspects between the Soviet Union and the PDRY for the benefit of the people of the two countries, for just peace in the Middle East, and for world security.

We wish you Comrade 'Ali Nasir Muhammad robust health and happiness and we wish the people of the PDRY continuous successes in the building of the new society.

YAR

President Receives Soviet Leader's Cable

GF070554 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 May 84

[Cable sent by Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, to 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress — date not given]

[Text] Your Excellency, the president, I thank you for the congratulations and good wishes on the occasion of my election to the post of the chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. I seize this opportunity to express confidence that the traditional friendly and cooperation relations between the Soviet Union and the YAR will continue to develop for the benefit of our peoples and for sake of establishing solid and just peace in the Middle East.

Ghali Views Iraq-Iran War, Gulf Security

GF070841 Doha QNA in Arabic 0740 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Kuwait, 7 May (QNA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, has affirmed that it is difficult for the Soviet Union to have a balanced attitude, which is parallel with the U.S. attitude, toward Israel because the Soviet influence cannot be equal to or compared with the U.S. influence on Israel.

In a statement published in the Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-ANBA'* today, the Egyptian minister said Egypt still believes the United States can play the role of a full partner in bringing about a peaceful settlement in the Middle East. Nevertheless, he affirmed that Egyptian diplomatic policy stresses it is inevitable that the Soviet Union should return to the region to bring about a solution to the Middle East crisis. He stressed the necessity of Soviet participation at a later stage.

Regarding Lebanon, Dr Ghali affirmed that Egypt's diplomatic policy is to resist any attempt to divide Lebanon. He said: Egyptian diplomatic policy stresses that the territorial integrity and political independence of Lebanon are the basic pillars of the comprehensive peace we are striving to achieve.

Regarding Egypt's initiative to end the war between Iraq and Iran, he affirmed that Egyptian mediation is being carried out within the framework of the Nonaligned Movement, and is aimed at mobilizing the nonaligned group to bring about a solution to the military confrontation between Iraq and Iran.

Regarding reports that India did not show real interest in the Egyptian role in this regard, and that Indira Gandhi, Indian prime minister and current chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, postponed a scheduled visit to Egypt, he said that this is incorrect, because Indian diplomatic officials contacted the Egyptian organs concerned and explained to them the reason why the visit was postponed and not cancelled. He said that both the visits to Egypt and Algeria were postponed and that the date of Ghandi's visit to Egypt will be determined during the next few weeks.

The Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs affirmed that maintaining security in the Gulf region is the responsibility of the region's sons and not that of others. He said that if the region's states unite, they will not need foreign intervention.

The Egyptian minister affirmed that the mutual Arab defense treaty, which was signed by Egypt in 1950, is valid and effective. He said that on the basis of this treaty, the region's countries can find a solution to the security question.

Guinean Prime Minister Arrives, Makes Statement

NC071117 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Cairo, 7 May (MENA) — Diara Traore, Guinean prime minister, arrived in Cairo today on a 1-day visit. Traore was received at the airport by Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs.

In an arrival statement, the Guinean prime minister said the aim of his visit is to meet with President Husni Mubarak and hold talks with senior Egyptian officials to explain the causes that prompted the Guinean Army to assume power. He affirmed that Egypt is a friendly and fraternal state, adding: We hope that the visit will yield fruitful results.

In a similar statement, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: We welcome the Guinean prime minister and his delegation in their first visit to Egypt. He added: There is no doubt the relations between the two countries are strong, and proceeding from that premise we welcome him, hoping the visit will be a step toward enhancing relations between Egypt and Guinea.

SWAPO Delegation Arrives in Cairo 7 May

NC071410 Cairo MENA in English 1345 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Cairo, 7 May (MENA) — A delegation representing the African National Conference of SWAPO movement arrived here today for a week long visit to Egypt for talks with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali.

The visit comes within the framework of constant consultations and meetings between Egypt and SWAPO.

Position on Cyprus Issue Explained

NC080618 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0425 GMT 8 May 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the caption "Egypt and the Cypriot Problem," the newspaper *AL-AHRAM* notes that Egypt's support for the Cypriot draft resolution, which was submitted by the government of President Spiros Kiprianou, did not originate in a vacuum. The paper also refers to the remarks made by Egypt's permanent UN representative to the effect that the establishment of a Turkish state in northern Cyprus, and the exchange of diplomatic representation between Turkey and this state entail grave dangers.

AL-AHRAM continues by saying that Egypt's support for the Cypriot draft resolution emanates from its support of the UN Security Council's resolution last November wherein the Council considered the status of the north Cypriot state as illegitimate.

AL-AHRAM points out that Egypt strongly believes the settlement of the dispute should be based on the respect of the unity of the island's territorial integrity, sovereignty, and character as a nonaligned country. Egypt also strongly believes that the Greek and Turkish communities should coexist in one state. The paper adds that this Egyptian position stems from its declared principles which object to partition, particularly when this is based on sectarianism. The Turkish secessionist state in the northern part of the island is bound to lead the country to disintergration, especially if it gains diplomatic recognition as a state or as a secessionist statelet. This, in itself, represents partition and a precedent that could threaten the Middle East region with the dangers of partition and disputes.

AL-AHRAM concludes its editorial, saying that Egypt is trying to apply this principle to other areas in the region. Egypt is resisting all plans in Lebanon to partition the country into sectarian statelets. Likewise, Egypt rejects the secession of southern Sudan, as all these partition plans are bound to encourage the divisive schemes in the Middle East, shake stability, allow self-interests that are based on foreign plans to gain the upper-hand, and push the area to the brink of civil war, which will necessarily deprive the peoples of a secure and prosperous future.

Israeli 'Threats' Against Syria

NC071522 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 May 84

[Bahyyi ad-Din Shu'ayb commentary: "The Israeli Government Is Pushing the Region to the Brink of War"]

[Text] It seems that Yitzhaq Shamir wants to step up confrontation with Syria to the level of a military clash. The Israeli prime minister said his government hope that it will not be compelled to use force against Syria to ensure the release of three Israelis arrested by the Syrian Army. The incident began when the Syrian Army arrested three Israelis on spying charges, who had infiltrated Syrian lines. Israel claimed that they were simply diplomats working in the Israeli Liaison Office in East Beirut.

This sharp edge in Israel's tone comes at a moment of tension with Syria, replete with all the ingredients for an explosion. We know there has been great tension on the contact lines between the Syrian and Israeli forces during the past few weeks, and that each side is reinforcing its positions with personnel and armor. The statements exchanged by the two sides on clashes in that area illustrate how much the situation has deteriorated.

We want to pinpoint a number of facts that show the Israeli Government wishes to push the region to the brink. The first is the claim that the three Israelis, who fell into the hands of the Syrian forces, are diplomats. This is a claim aimed at giving some form of immunity to the Israelis, who had infiltrated Syrian linesat a time of great tension between the Israeli and Syrian sides in the Al-Biqa' region.

The second is the claim that the three Israelis are members of the Israeli Liaison Office in Lebanon. This is a claim that Syriacan never accept, even if it is true from Israel's viewpoint. The reason is that Damascus does not recognize any Israeli political offices in Lebanon.

In addition, the treaty by which Israel opened the Liaison Office — an office regarded as an embassy — was abrogated by the Lebanese Government at Syria's prompting.

The third is Yitzhaq Shamir's threat that Israel might be compelled to use force to release the three men. This implies that Shamir does not care about the safety of these prisoners but wants to use them as a pretext to wage aggression against Syria. Nevertheless, all these threats by Shamir's government really aim to pressure Syria and create a tense atmosphere during the election battle so that the Likud bloc can attract some of the extremist elements' votes.

The fact is that any aggression against Syria is subject to international factors that Israel cannot evade or bypass, no matter how much it desires to turn its threats into action. All in all, Shamir's government steps closer toward war without advancing a single step toward peace.

Abu Ghazalah, 'Ali Plans To Visit U.S. Reported

GF071902 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 6 May 84 P 1

['Abd ar-Rahman al-Amin dispatch from Washington]

[Excerpt] *AS-SIYASAH* has learned that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has not shown any enthusiasm for a U.S. proposal to visit Washington in August. A U.S. source close to the White House has told *AS-SIYASAH* that Egyptian Defense Minister 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah will visit Washington before the end of May and that Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali will arrive in Washington in June, when he will acquaint officials here with the structure of the new Egyptian cabinet, which will be formed after the 28 May elections.

The U.S. official said these visits will not be an alternative for the visit to Washington by President Mubarak who has been quoted as saying it is not "very urgent" at a time when the U.S. Congress will be in recess.

Air Force Strikes Two Naval Targets 7 May

JN080853 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0843 GMT 8 May 84

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] We have just received the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. A military spokesman has stated the following:

With God's help and with great success, at 2000 yesterday, 7 May our forces carried out an air strike against two large naval targets, which are believed to have been carrying oil from the Iranian Khark island. Our planes returned safely and successfully to base.

[dated] 8 May 1984

Saudi Tanker Reportedly Hit

JN081036 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] An Iraqi Government spokesman has announced that the Iraqi Air Force has attacked two ships which were near the Iranian oil terminal in Khark Island. The spokesman also explained that the two ships were within the prohibited zone defined by Baghdad.

In the meantime, reports from London say that a Saudi oil tanker called *Uhud* was hit by a missile when it was about 80 miles from the Iranian terminal.

INA Cites Lloyds on Tanker

JN081249 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1224 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] London, 8 May (INA) — Informed sources in Lloyds insurance company said today that a giant oil tanker owned by an Arab state and weighing 117,000 metric tons was hit by an Iraqi rocket while on its way to the main port on the Iranian Khark island last night. The sources added that a Greek ship, which was in the same area, picked up the tanker's crew and transferred them to Khark Island this morning. The sources further said that one member of the tanker's crew was lost during the incident. An Iraqi military spokesman announced earlier today that the Iraqi fighter planes last night hit two naval targets in the military operations area in the Arab Gulf.

Communique No 1,458 on 6-7 May War Activities

JN071626 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 May 84

[Communique No 1,458 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 7 May 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: Our brave armed forces continued their valiant activities in the operational sectors against the forces of the aggressor Iranian regime. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our forward units opened fire from various types of weapons on the enemy positions, assembly points, vehicles, and engineering equipment opposite our positions in the operational area east of Basra, killing three, wounding others, and destroying one tank, four vehicles, four infantry positions, and one hardware stockpile.

2. Yesterday evening and today, our bold helicopter gunships attacked the enemy positions and assembly points in the areas opposite our forward units' positions in the operational area east of Basra, scoring direct and effective hits. The known enemy losses amounted to the destruction of 18 assembly points. All our helicopter gunships returned safely, praise be to God.

3. One of our forward units opened artillery fire on several enemy troops opposite our positions in the Maysan sector, killing or wounding four enemy troops.

4. Fresh groups of Iranians, fleeing the hell of charlatan Khomeyni and his sanguinary regime, sought refuge with our forward units in the northern sector of the battlefield. They were safely evacuated to the rear.

5. Today, the clique of evil and crime that is ruling in Iran shelled Basra and Mandali and their environs with heavy artillery. The savage enemy shelling led to the martyrdom of one civilian, the wounding of nine others, the demolition of one house, and the damaging of six other houses in Basra. It also damaged two houses in Mandali.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 7 May 1984

President Presides Over Cabinet Meeting 7 May

JN071253 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1100 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] President Saddam Husayn this morning presided over a cabinet meeting. During this 5-hour meeting, the cabinet discussed the items on its agenda and made the necessary decisions. The meeting was attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice-chairman of the RCC; Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf, RCC member and vice president of the republic; other RCC members; members of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; head of the presidential office; the ministers; and several state officials.

Saddam Husayn Comments on War, Relations With Syria

GF041130 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 3-4 May 84 pp 4, 5

[Interview with President Saddam Husayn by Kuwaiti press delegation in Baghdad — date not given]

[Text] Question: What do you say to those who link peace in the Gulf war with the resignation of Saddam Husayn?

Answer: Nothing. If those people had any common sence they would not utter such nonsense. Iraq is not a village where the people can so easily appoint a head of state. Our people are an integral part of yours, and these fables belong to the 16th and 18th centuries, not to modern times.

Q: Certain circumstances tend to surround the accession of new leaders in Arab countries. The newcomer immediately gains popularity, as has been seen in Iraq, Egypt and Syria. But after gaining popularity and imposing their authority, they tend to leave the stage after a short time. Has Iraq made any plans for a post-Saddam Husayn regime? President Saddam's personality is strong and effective and he is capable of uniting the people, but we are concerned with what comes after.

A: This is a logical and sound question which every Iraqi citizen should raise. Two things have emerged from previous Arab experiences which serve to prevent strategic mistakes.

The first is the Ba'ath Party experience in Syria, and the second Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir in Egypt.

'Abd an-Nasir was a well-known Arab leader who played an historic role, but after his death a group of armed forces officers tried to acquire roles in the national structure.

Conditions in Iraq are different. Saddam Husayn was still a third-year law student when the revolution took place. He was brought up with the people, and carries beliefs based on the role of the party, and is held responsible for any mistakes he makes.

In reality, nationalism is not a desire or a wish, but is built on responsibility within the political framework. If responsibility is practised within this framework, then a clear vision is formed.

But one detects among national groups some difficult personalities who could become adventurers in revolutionary movements.

To analyse the conditions in Iraq, with this as background, I would say that from the start we attempted to show individuals the importance of party work, to draw them to our ranks. We believe that persuasion on the individual level, regardless of position, forms a basis of our government. We must bear in mind that the military build-up outside the political revolutionary framework is totally different, as it is based on orders. In the revolutionary movement there is more flexibility, which can lead to shocks. Such was the case with President as-Sadat.

A hierachy similar to those in other countries exists in Iraq.

Q: What are the ruling groups which exist in Iraq?

A: The head of state, prime minister, cabinet, parliament and the local ruling body in each province. The conditions of rule in Iraq are much better than in many other countries; the party is the highest authority for leading the people. There are traditions, an internal ruling system, doctrines, and working programmes at every level.

Anyone succeeding Saddam Husayn will not be able to deviate from the path, as was the case with As-Sadat. Saddam Husayn held the highest reputation as a man and that is why he was chosen by the Ba'th Party.

The party revolutionary Command is the authority which lays out the broadlines for the working programme at each level, while the council is the legal, political and administrative strength which runs the affairs of the country.

The chairman of the Command Council is considered the first man in the state. The authority and responsibility of the command run hand in hand, and during the absence of its chairman the council appoints an acting president from one of its members, in line with the constitution.

In 1969, I tried to split the portfolios of president and prime minister, but my comrades were not in favor of this idea.

The council of ministers runs the affairs of state, and there are subordinate bodies which implement its decisions.

These bodies are the most powerful and capable of running the country's affairs, when the state is facing one of the most difficult situations, the ugly war, which has been handled with due diligence and efficiency.

It has been said that because they could not defeat the Iraqis militarily, they should try economically. Admittedly it was a difficult situation to endure, but because of the unity of the people we were able to overcome.

We clearly showed our capability. There is nothing in the universe beyond the capability of man if he is engaged in an humane activity. We all joined hands and overcame the economic difficulties and burdens and our economy is now well balanced.

It is true we landed ourselves in heavy debt to our brother Arabs, particularly the generous Kuwaiti people, but our development projects are progressing on target, although the costs are being borne through loans.

But we believe the situation will be rectified in 1985, when new horizons will open up to us.

Admittedly, Saddam Husayn is respected by his colleagues, as you have observed, but there are ups and downs with everything and we firmly believe that a leader, no matter how influential, is not a leader in the true sense of the world if he does not help create other leaders.

We learned leadership from our ancestors. We were told that when the leader of Caliphate died, 20 or 30 appeared to take his place, all of them qualified for the job. When asked who would be commander of the army in the battlefield, it is said that 20 stepped forward for the honour.

Once we wanted to appoint a brigade commander and many came forward. In general, we find the Iraqi people do their national duty enthusiastically, they fight bravely and courageously under difficult conditions.

For example, when the Iranians stormed the area east of the Tigris, our defence was non-existent in this area but the people fought bravely and repelled the enemy. This is the genuine security of the country, the presence of the people's army.

Q: Advanced democratic regimes, such as those in Britain, France and America have parliaments to rule the country, but in most Arab states either individuals or the council of ministers rule. What is the position in Iraq, does the Ba'th Party, the Revolutionary Command Council or Saddam Husayn rule the country?

A: The party leads and draws out the strategy and the state is governed by the Revolutionary Command Council. Each carries out its individual responsibility but they rule jointly.

Q: Do you believe that an escalation in the war might help bring it to a speedy end? When might Iraq take decisive steps to end the war? Is there any connection between the propaganda campaign on chemical warfare waged by Iran and the reported threat from Israel to strike Iraq's vital military installations, and have any preventive measures been taken to counter a possible air strike by Israel? Do you anticipate any confrontation between the superpowers because of the Gulf war, if Iran attempted to expand its aggression, particularly in view of the Iranian leaders' threat to Kuwait? Why do you not attack Khark Island, in view of the fact that you did carry out part of the threat to lay siege to it? Do you believe that Iran has the capacity to close the Hormuz Strait? Have you any defence programe planned for after the war which would include a standing strike force to face any aggression in the Gulf area? What is the position with the Iranian and Iraqi nuclear reactors; did France change its attitude or has Iraq resorted to other sources? Has any progress been made with the Iraqi reactors? The strength of the PLO appears to have been dissipated by the events in Lebanon. Do you see any alternative to the present situation, perhaps a PLO — Jordanian dialogue?

There is talk that Syria's attitude is gradually changing in favour of Iraq, on the advice of the big power is this true, could you give us a clear picture of the situation? If Syria agreed to pump Iraqi oil through its territory, would this convince Iran to end the war? What is your opinion of Turkey's cooperation on the problem of the Kurds and the Ataturk dam? Did the visit of the Turkish Premier to Iran have any connection with the dam issue? It was reported that Turkey has revived its claim to Mosul, was this issue discussed with you? What is your impression of Turkey's membership of NATO? Do you see it as an obstacle to coordination between Turkey and Arab countries? On your birthday, what was your dearest wish, and did it come true? What have been your ambitions, on both the individual and national level in recent times?

A: I would like to discuss the war from both the Iraqi and the Iranian sides.

We are trying to make Iran understand that the idea of expansion by force is totally rejected and any problem must be settled either on the battlefield or diplomatically. On the battlefield the Iranian regime has failed to achieve anything for its people. They were defeated at Basra, and many Iranians wanted to enter Baghdad, but no-one can go to Baghdad without the necessary visa clearance. Militarily, the Iranians failed to realise their objectives, they were left deeply wounded, lying in pools of blood.

Politically, we should continue on our present path, making it clear to the Iranians that Iraq and other Arab countries are not interested in continuing this war. This will reduce the popularity of Khomeyni and his popularity will continue to decline until he is powerless to cross the Iraqi borders.

Khomeyni aims to destroy the enemy by continuing the war, but we believe that the voice of the Iranian people calling for an end to the war are getting louder and louder.

The ruler does not fight with a sword, someone else carries it for him. One he cannot find anyone to take up arms he will be paralysed.

Things are happening which proves our policy is right and effective, and it is being heard deep inside Iran. This is clearly evident from the number of Iranians taking refuge in Iraq.

At the same time, the Iranian opposition has taken note of the intentions of Arabs, regarding their relations, and this will force an end to the war.

We look and work for peace, but at the same time we are well prepared for war.

Iraq's position today is better than it was in 1979, or 1980 as regards optimism for the future and clear ideas of the justness of our cause.

It is clear to the children, women, old men and the fighters on the battlefront that we are right in fighting the invaders. Our soldiers express this belief when they are on the battlefront, and some of you who visited the front know this.

On the subject of chemical weapons, it is clear that the media in the U.S. which is strongly influenced by the Zionists, played a major part in this, along with the statements made by Iran.

Sometimes they say that ships coming to Iraq from Aqaba port are full of poisonous gases, and at other times they claim that the phosphate plant in Ukashat is being used to produce chemical weapons.

It is clear that they wish to attack important economic targets in Iraq. You may have seen Iranian officials on TV showing the people how to use gas masks. This is all to try to influence world opinion and prepare for an attack on the Iraqi economy.

It is natural that we have taken preventime measures to face this possibility, and it is no secret that our air defences and air force are in better shape today than they were in 1981.

On the possibility of a third world war if Iran attempts to occupy any Gulf state, there are two clear points:

Firstly, we must be self-reliant. No country in the world is prepared to make sacrifices for another, unless it is in its interests

to do so. If Iran attempts to occupy Kuwait, or Bahrain, do you think that Britain, the Soviet Union or Germany will be prepared to make sacrifices and enter the war?

This is not under our control and we should not count on it. Iraq has not depended on this, if it had it would have been defeated long ago.

We depend mainly on our own capabilities, and any outside help we see as a bonus.

So the possibility of a world war is not an easy question to answer. It could be started by just one simple mistake.

It is possible that the big powers may crush the small states and establish agreements between themselves.

But as Arabs we must have priorities on the international friendship scale. The people who stand by us are one thing, those who stand with our enemies another.

Gulf states should depend upon their national capabilities and strengthen them. They must also settle their internal situations quickly. This can be done by deporting anyone who works against the country.

We did this in Iraq. If we had not the fifth column would be very active by now.

Iraq wants what is best for its Gulf brothers and we are always prepared to discuss any proposal for cooperation based on the national interests of the Arabs.

We have talked with or Gulf brothers and warned them about foreigners, of which they have many in their countries. This was not because we wanted to interfere in their internal affairs but because of the national bonds between us.

If Kuwait is in danger, Iraq's ruler should not remain silent, the same would apply for Bahrain and other Gulf countries. Bahrain and Kuwait have large non-Arab elements and they should be on the alert.

If you relied on Iraq, who knows what will happen in 30 years. Iraq may have a ruler who does not share this national feeling.

Had India been on the borders of the Gulf, it could have created problems, just as Iran has done.

To maintain good relations with our neighbours we should not send a lot of people to their country in interfere in their affairs. In Dubai, for example, there are more foreigners than Arabs. Any Gulf official who does not take this situation seriously may bring disaster to the Arabs.

In answer to your question on Khark Island, we announced that we were besieging it, and this siege will intensify as our capabilities increase. The means we have used so far are not our only ones, better means will be available in the not too distant future.

The whole world, including Iran knows that Iraq has hit several ships and tankers at Khark Island.

One of Iran's strongest cards is its oil exports, so by hitting tankers and therefore Iran's exports, Tehran will have to rethink its political and military position.

We will attack the island itself when the time is right and it is in our best interests.

Concerning the nuclear reactor which was destroyed by Israel, the French are still committed to constructing another one. But it appears that there are those who are trying to influence France particularly its media, by saying that the new reactor may be used for military purposes. Now the French are reviewing the specifications of the reactor.

But you know, and the whole world knows, that the reactor was for peaceful purposes, and was under international control and supervision.

On the demarcation of the Iraq-Kuwait borders, after the settlement of the Saudi-Iraqi and Jordanian-Iraq borders, we are ready to discuss this with our brothers in Kuwait. But there is no thought that either side will gain an inch of land. The interests of the Arab nation must be put above all else. Neither Iraq nor Kuwait has rejected the idea of discussing this issue.

Q: Then what is the obstacle?

A: We see no obstacle, but perhaps our brothers in Kuwait think that because of the war this was not the time to discuss this.

But for some time we have hinted and even told our brothers in Kuwait not to see the war as an obstacle. The war does not stop our other activities, and that includes these discussions.

Q: Is that an invitation?

A: It is not an invitation, it is an answer to your question. I do not issue invitations through the media, I make them through the proper channels. Our relations with our brothers in Kuwait are excellent and we are continually exchanging views on different issues.

Q: Don't you think its time to discuss a solution to this problem?

A: I think any time is a good time, either now or later.

Q: But there are opportunities?

A: Kuwait is neither weaker nor stronger than Jordan or Saudi Arabia. Iraq is no weaker than it was two years ago and it will be no stronger in the future. If Iraq was not doing the right thing, it would not have worked out the demarcation with Saudi Arabia and Jordan. The only difference is that the Iraqi borders with Saudi Arabia and Jordan were marked out before, which is not the case with Kuwait.

But the situation is not beyond solution. A solution can be obtained easily, given the good intentions of both sides, and so long as the interests of both parties are taken into consideration.

Because of the war the situation in the Gulf is difficult, if our fleet moves it is attacked. Kuwaiti officials realise this. Now what does the military presence in Bubiyan mean? What does military presence in Warbah mean for Iraq. Kuwait and Iran? We don't have ambitions, we respect the national sovereignty of Kuwait.

Q: It is understood that there are some strategic points between Iraq and Kuwait, which could be regulated through agreements case of war?

A: There is no problem at all, I don't think there is any question which cannot be solved. Our brothers in Kuwait believe that their views are close to ours and ours are close to theirs.

Q: If there were no sea, it would have been all right, but where there is a sea and there is Gulf and non-Gulf it will remain unsolved until the war is over. Is this what you are saying?

A: I don't know. I am not prepared to say anything else on this subject.

Q: The people of Kuwait want to know the answer and we have been requested to ask you.

A: We respect the opinion of the people in both Iraq and Kuwait. This subject is there are requires treatment from Iraq and Kuwait.

Q: With the opening of new routes for Iraqi oil by 1985, do you expect Iraq to be financially comfortable to the extent that it can restore development projects to the level before the 1980s?

A: Yes, because Iraq's revenue from other sources is better than in the past. I think the new oil routes will be sufficient to meet Iraq's needs.

Q: Will oil be pumped at the level it was in the 1970s?

A: The economic returns will be better than in the past.

Q: Has your coordination with Saudi Arabia been of help to you through their AWACS planes, particularly in the recent attacks on Basra?

A: We did not ask Saudi Arabia to supply us with information obtained by AWACS. The planes are in Saudi Arabia for affairs relating to Saudi Arabia. We did not ask them to tell us what the AWACS told them. Our own information on the enemy is sufficient. We depend mainly on Iraqi information. But I believe that when they obtain information regarding the security of Iraq, all Arabs, including Saudi Arabia will not hesitate to pass it on to us.

Q: Is there any undisclosed mediation to end the Gulf war? When will normal relations on the level of ambassadors be restored with Egypt, apart from what was decided at the Baghdad summit? Is there any plan to install an oil pipeline through Saudi Arabia to the Red Sea?

A: We have announced an agreement with Saudi Arabia to install the pipeline. On the mediation, there are no undisclosed moves at all. As far as relations with Egypt are concerned, we all know that the boycott was effected in protest at As-Sadat's action relating to the Palestinian question, to remove it from the Arab force and to stop it acting as the representative of Palestinians.

Husni Mubarak's regime has clearly announced that the Palestinian question is the affair of the Palestinians. It has stressed that Egypt will not make itself a substitute for the Palestinians. We do not see anything in Mubarak's policies to contradict this.

The second point is that Egypt must not remain outside the Arab capability. This is not said because Iraq is facing Iran, but because we are brothers. Our fight is one thing, the Arab situation another. We have been fighting for four years now and only two countries have sent symbolic representatives of their armies to help us.

Through our stand on Egypt we do not expect the Egyptian Army to come and fight with us. We hope for it, but we are not relying on a single Egyptian soldier to fight for us.

Q: Then where is the joint defence pact?

A: We hope it is going to materialise, but we do not live on hopes. We will be happy to welcome anyone who wants to come, but because the front requires more men, but so it will go down in history that we fought our enemy as a nation.

Q: It has been noticed that the military strength of the PLO has been weakened by the in-fighting in Lebanon. What is the answer to this PLO-Jordanian dialiogue?

A: The strength of any commando organisation is in its grass roots. And its underground organisation. The PLO started underground, but had to make itself known in Lebanon, which had both positive and negative effects.

It gave it political strength and momentum, but placed a heavy burden on it because it became an easy target, and it tried to function as a state but it has no land.

We believe that if the PLO went back to basics it would rid itself of the problems which arise in Lebanon. Popular organisations are not destroyed by crises but but unclear vision.

We support the Jordanian-Palestinians and Jordanians are convinced it will solve their problems. We do not interfere.

Q: There is talk of a change in the Syrian position regarding the pipeline and the Gulf war. What is the Soviet role in this as the Soviet Union is a friend to Syria and our friend now?

A: It is no secret that the Soviets want better relations between Syria and Iraq, and according to our information the Soviets tried to convince Syria to change their stand and open the pipeline through their land. But the Syrians rejected this.

We work to increase our capabilities, try to reduce the number of our enemies or at least try to neutralise them. But we never talk of dreams.

Is the object of Syrian-Israeli tension to prevent Jordan from helping Iraq? The aim of the Syrian regime is to convert the Jordanian position, just as it did in Lebanon.

But the Jordanians, the people, the government and the king are aware of this, and Jordan is not Lebanon.

Q: What is your view about cooperation with Turkey in solving the Kurds problem and the Ataturk Dam? Does the visit of the Turkish prime minister have any connection with the dam project? It is said that Turkey has again demanded its rights in Al-Mawsil. Was this discussed with you? What is your opinion of Turkey's membership in NATO in the light of Arab-Turkish coordination to solve the problems of the area in future? Is there any hope of carrying out a Turkish proposal to establish an Islamic economic community including Iraq, Gulf states, Syria and Jordan on the lines of the EEC? What is Turkey's stand towards the Gulf war?

A: We have brotherly relations with Turkey which is an Islamic country bordering Arab countries, and we should develop these relations for the benefit of both Turks and Arabs. Turkey has not committed any actions against the Arabs for a long time and they should be respected for this. It is certain that Turkey wants to maintain good relations with Arabs including Iraq. Turkey is a part of NATO, but there are other European countries in NATO and they have strong relations with Arab countries. The Arabs do not impose restrictions and conditions for building relations with other countries. For instance, they did not ask the UK to leave NATO in order to have relations with it. Similarly, Arabs should not lay down conditions or ask Turkey to cut its connections with NATO before having relations with it. Turkey has not taken any action showing a desire to expand at the expense of Arabs — whether Iraq or any other Arab country neighbouring Turkey. Turkey has taken a neutral stand towards the Iraq-Iran war, and Arab countries, including Iraq. Arab countries including Iraq, believe that Turkey should play an active role in ending the war, because it borders both Iraq and Iran and has wide relations with both countries as well as with other Arab countries.

You know that the rivers which flow through Iraq and Syria come through Turkey. There are international laws and traditions regarding the right to use the water, and there are continuous talks about this in order to decide the rights of Iraq, Syria and Turkey. The Syrians harmed the interests of both countries because they had avoided holding meetings from 1972 to solve the joint problems of the three countries and to rach an agreement which would be respected by these three countries. I visited Syria in 1972 and agreed to make an agreement. They also submitted a proposal and we approved it, but they dropped it during the same visit. This was the last official talks between Iraq and Syria on the subject.

Q: What about the visit of the Turkish prime minister to Iran?

A: I have drawn no conclusions about the visit and the issues which will be discussed there. A prime minister visits a neighbouring country, that's all. The news reports will show us the points that will be discussed by both parties and the results of the visit.

Q: What did you wish to be when you were young?

A: I wished to be a pilot in the Iraq Air Force but this dream did not come true because I was three kilograms underweight. I believe this was just an excuse not to accept me at that time, because I and my friend, who is now the Defence Minister, applied to the Iraqi Air Force to be pilots, but they told him his eyes were bad and told me I was underweight. But the defence minister became a pilot after 20 years and then he became a colonel in the army. My weight is now right, but I do not meet the other conditions to qualify me to be a pilot these days.

Q: What did you want to happen which did not?

A: What we wanted to happen which did not was the appearance of another man who would be able to lead Iraq and the Ba'th Party, and that I would be just a member of the party living a normal life away from the limelight. This was my hope till 1974, but I lost hope from that year. The war was something which I did not want to happen. When the clashes started on September 4, 1980 at the borders, the Iranians closed the Shatt al-Arab, shelled Basra and the oil installations, and made air raids. It was clear their aim was to invade Iraq and not only to attack some border cities. I did my best to avoid involvement in the war. I asked the defence minister whether we would be able to endure more Iranian air attacks against our plane at the airports, and he replied that we would not be able to. I put the same question to the commander of the Iraqi Air Force and it was a terrible question for him. But as a leader I have to ask about everything in order to make the right decision. They said we cannot be patient and negative, and it would be very dangerous to allow Iranian troops to cross our borders and to close several roads, and that most of the air force would be destroyed on the ground. I told them to depend on God and to defend the Iraqi people and lands.

Q: Is your love of children related to your own childhood and the death of your father?

A: It is a human feeling which I cannot explain: part of human personality, my respect for life and the difficulties I faced.

Q: Many people believed that on your birthday you would make a decision on the political refugees abroad and would also pardon Iraqis who failed to complete their national service. Were these expectations right?

A: There are clear laws on those who avoid military service in war time. My birthday was an unofficial occasion, but if we are convinced that a decision is right we do not wait for an occasion to announce it. Anyone living abroad would be pleased with a pardon as it would allow them to return to their country. Anyone who is considered a political refugee and wants to return to Iraq is welcome to return to this country and take up his responsibilities.

Q: Before the war there was a project to supply water to Kuwait from Shatt al-Arab. Are there any plans to revive this project?

A: This issue lies with you. We said these waters were for Arabs. If you want it for agriculture we can discuss it, if you want

drinking water we will not stop you. The Jordanians asked for water and we told them to take it.

Q: We believe the time is suitable for the project.

A: There is nothing unsuitable for us...everything is suitable.

Q: It is said that the closure is in the hands of the U.S. and Iran, and they can hinder shipping in the Gulf. The only country which will benefit from the closure will be the U.S. because oil prices will be increased. Mexico will sell its oil at high prices then pay off its debts to American banks. American oil companies will benefit and the U.S. will have more influence over West Europe and Japan.

A: We cannot look at this issue from just one side. The Americans certainly have their own plans for the Gulf, but it is also certain that other countries are involved in the continuation of the war. We also know that some Arabs stand with Iran, others are neutral and some stand with Iraq. The Americans say they do not want the war to continue, but they should prove that they are serious.

I do not believe that the big powers take dangerous decisions such as the closure of the Hormuz Strait without taking into account every factor, including the reactions of others. I cannot say that the Americans want to close the Gulf or do not want to close the Gulf. But one of the reasons to continue the war would be to change the stand of the Gulf states. This is a dangerous game and you know just how dangerous.

Q: Do Iraq's official communiques give accurate figures about the war victims, how many Iraqi soldiers have been killed in the war?

A: I will not give you the number of our martyrs, because it is not included in our communiques. We have not mentioned a figure for our martyrs, and we cannot say that communiques are right or not.

Q: What about the Iranian casualties?

A: I cannot say whether the number of Iranian victims is accurate but we are convinced our figures are right when we include them in our communiques.

Q: Why are communiques delayed?

A: We delay them to ensure accuracy of the Iranian casualty figures. If you ask any soldier at the front about the Iranian casualties he would tell you that there are more than those included in our communiques.

Q: Why did you dismiss your brother as head of the security staff?

A: We are not a ruling family in Iraq. We are the sons of peasants who undertake our jobs to serve the people through the party. I am president now, but when the Iraqi people no longer want me you will see me working as a lawyer or going back to work as a peasant.

The Arab world should not be surprised that the brother of Saddam Husayn is director of intelligence today and an ordinary man tomorrow. We are not like others, as our brothers here do not become amirs. There were rumours that my brother has organised a plot against me but these were exposed as lies. My brother, Barazan, was not involved in a plot against me, but he was just not fit to shoulder the responsibility of his post.

Q: What news can you give us to take back to Kuwait which has not already been published?

A: The targets which were hit in the Gulf, which the world press announced were hit by Super Etendard aircraft. The targets included an Arab ship chartered by a foreign country which then chartered it to Iran and it came to Khark Island.

Q: Was there no protest from the Arab country which owned the ship?

A: The Arabs concerned should ensure that foreigners who charter their ships do not send them to Khark Island to transport oil fro Iran.

Q: Why did you stop smoking?

A: I have not stopped smoking, I just do not like to be too reliant on a habit. I smoke when I want to. Sometimes I smoke four cigars a day, sometimes I do not smoke for four days. I like smoking, but I can stop. Sometimes I do not smoke for weeks or months and other times I smoke every day.

Q: Then certain events make you smoke or stop smoking?

A: I have never in my life taken valium to make me sleep or to calm me, and I have never smoked when I have been confused.

Q: Do you sleep well?

A: If you want me to sleep I can sleep within half a minute. I count to ten when I go to bed and I can sleep at once. I like to sleep when I visit the peasants.

Comparison of Saddam Husayn Kuwaiti Interview

Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic at 1600 GMT on 4 May carries a 2-hour recording of the interview President Saddam Husayn gave to Kuwaiti journalists in Baghdad. The Baghdad radio recording, in which the questions were indistinct, has been compared with the Kuwait KUNA Arabic version published in the 4 May Middle East & Africa *DAILY REPORT*, page E 1, revealing the following variations:

Paragraph one, lines one through ten on a question of linking the peace process with Iran with Husayn's resignation are omitted from the Baghdad radio recording.

Page E 8, paragraph seven on talk that Saddam Husayn's brother Barazan and a number of other officers had conspired against Saddam Husayn is omitted from the Baghdad radio recording.

President Receives U.S. Journalist 6 May

JN061046 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0955 GMT 6 May 84

[Text] Baghdad, 6 May (INA) — President Saddam Husayn received here today U.S. author and journalist (Lilian Demith). During the meeting, the president spoke about the Iraqi- Iranian war, the Iraqi people's high morale, the cohesive political, economic, and military situation in Iraq, Iraq's victories, and the repelling of the Iranian regime's aggression. He also spoke about the Arab situation, Iraq's stands in the international arena, and Iraq's independent concept of the international political trends.

'Aziz Receives Written Message From Japan's Abe

JN051808 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1741 GMT 5 May 84

[Text] Baghdad, 5 May (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received a written message from Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, delivered by Mr Hatano, head of the Middle Eastern and African Department in the Japanese Foreign Ministry, who met Tariq 'Aziz in Baghdad today.

The meeting also dealt with the situation in the region, the dangers that threaten stability and security in it, and the bearing these dangers have on the interests of the parties concerned.

'Aziz affirmed the need to deal with the situation in the region and the Iranian threats with a spirit of responsibility. He said that the Iranian threats are not aimed only at Iraq but also at the peace, stability, and prosperity of all the states in the region, something which reflects negatively on the interests of those states which have large-scale relations with the states in the region. 'Aziz warned against the consequences of shortsighted behavior which concentrate on short-term benefits and neglect far-reaching, strategic benefits.

KYODO Report on Message

OW070637 Tokyo KYODO in English 0001 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Cairo, May 6 KYODO — Iraqi Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz has described as "myopic" Japan's attitude toward the Iran-Iraq war, saying it is seeking an immediate interest at the price of long-term strategic relations and interest.

'Aziz made the statement during talks with Yoshio Hatano, director general of the Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau of Japan's Foreign Ministry in Baghdad Saturday, IRAQI NEWS AGENCY said.

The news agency gave no further details of 'Aziz's criticism of Japan, but diplomatic sources said he was referring to Japan's massive purchase of crude oil from Iran and a joint petrochemical project there.

Hatano went to Baghdad on a mission to talk 'Aziz into accepting an invitation to visit Japan as part of Japanese efforts to seek a cease-fire in the four-year-old conflict between Iran and Iraq.

The news agency did not say how 'Aziz reacted to the Japanese invitation. Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati visited Japan earlier this year.

During the talks with 'Aziz, Hatano delivered a personal letter from Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe to the Iraqi foreign minister, the news agency said without elaboration.

Ramadan Holds Talks With Romania's Tamara Dobrin

JN051523 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1402 GMT 5 May 84

[Text] Baghdad, 5 May (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, received here today Mrs Tamara Dobrin, executive chairman of the Socialist Democracy and Unity Front in Romania, and her delegation. The meeting was attended by Na'im Haddam, member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command and secretary general of the Progressive National Front.

The two sides discussed the friendly bilateral relations, the means of promoting them, and the Arab and international issues of common concern. Ramadan and Dobrin affirmed the importance of meetings between officials of the two countries on all levels because these meetings will reflect on developing and promoting the friendly ties between the two countries so as to serve the Iraqi and Romanian people.

Ramadan reviewed the Iraqi-Iranian war and the international stands toward it, affirming Iraq's readiness to respond to any effort to realize peace, and its absolute readiness to defend its revolution and sovereignty. He pointed out the dangers that will result from the Iranian side's refusal to abide by the international resolutions and its rejection of all mediation efforts. He said the international community must carry out its responsibility in bringing pressure to bear on the Iranian regime with the aim of stopping the fighting and forcing Iran to respect the will of the international community and humanity.

Mrs Tamara Dobrin praised the Iraqi-Romanian relations and stressed her country's desire to expand these relations in the various fields. She praised Iraq's progress and development despite the war circumstances. She also praised Iraq's effective role on the international level to promote the cause of peace and freedom out of its conviction in humanitarian principles. She valued Iraq's peaceful stands, its commitment to international resolutions, and its continuous efforts to stop the fighting and realize peace in the region.

Confederation With Palestinians Imminent

JN080743 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 May 84 p 1

[Text] Amman — *AD-DUSTUR* — It has been learned that a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, which has already been formed, will tour the Arab and Islamic states to inform them about the latest results of the Jordanian-Palestinian talks, which have reached the point of agreement and coordination and have come close to the confederation project. This delegation will also inform these states of the Zionist plans and will urge them to carry out their responsibilities by supporting the steadfastness of the Arab people in the occupied territory and protecting the Islamic shrines there from the Zionist onslaught.

Husayn Briefs UN Fact-Finding Delegation

JN071914 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has emphasized that Jordan's concept of peace stems from the need to establish a solid, just, and comprehensive peace in the region — peace that is based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and that the principle of a full withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in June 1967, is nonnegotiable and based on the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war and force.

During his meeting with the fact-finding international information delegation in the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon, his majesty the king said all directly and indirectly concerned parties should participate in the process of bringing about peace in the Middle East to remove Israel's occupation of the Arab territories and guarantee the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights.

His majesty the king also expressed his dissatisfaction with the statements being made by U.S. presidential candidates, especially those pertaining to the issue of Jerusalem, asserting that Jerusalem belongs to all religions, and that any change in its status will be completely rejected. He also explained Israel's policy in colonizing the occupied Arab territories, and said that Israel intensified the establishment of settlements as an expression of its rejection of President Reagan's initiative. He also pointed out that these settlements are being set up with U.S. aid.

His majesty the king affirmed that the strategic alliance between the United States and Israel will not help in bringing about peace in the Middle East. He added that as a superpower, the United States has political, humanitarian, and moral responsibilities toward the region and should contribute to a just solution without partiality toward any of the disputing parties. He also said that Israel's refusal to obey UN [General Assembly] and Security Council resolutions as well the peace initiatives is a result of the military imbalance that has been created by intensive U.S. aid to Israel.

His majesty said that Jordan is trying to acquire its self-defense needs in the face of the dangers and challenges surrounding it, and looks forward to supplying its Armed Forces from various sources in order to strengthen its defensive capabilities. His Majesty stressed that Jordan is anticipating a positive, developed European role that will contribute to peace efforts in the Middle East, pointing to the distinguished cultural, historical, and political ties between Europe and the Arab world, and to the joint vital interests between them, a fact that will enable the European countries to understand the dangers threatening the region and their effect on the world's countries and to assume a more effective role in peace efforts. Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, attended the meeting.

Prime Minister Meets Bethlehem Representative

JN071250 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 7 May 84 p 1

[Text] Amman — Ahmad 'Ubaydat, prime minister, at his office the day before yesterday, received Ribhi Mustafa, the Bethlehem area representative.

During the meeting, various issues concerning West Bank citizens were discussed, including movement across the bridges, student conditions, and job opportunities for new graduates.

UNRWA Commissioner General Rydbeck Visits Amman

[f subheadMeets 'Ubaydat

JN051713 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 May 84

[Text] Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat received Olof Rydbeck, UNRWA commissioner general, at the Prime Ministry this morning.

During the meeting, relations between Jordan and the UNRWA and means to support and strengthen the agency's activities and increase its services to the refugees were discussed. Subjects pertaining to the issuance of the new ration cards, conditions of the agency's teachers in Jordan, and the exchanged memoranda on this subject were also reviewed.

The meeting was also attended by Tahir al-Masri, foreign minister; Shawkat Mahmud, occupied land affairs minister; and Olof Rydbeck, UNRWA's director in Jordan.

Concludes Week-Long Visit

JN080803 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 May 8r p 24

[Excerpt] Amman — PETRA — UNRWA Commissioner General Olof Rydbeck left Amman for Vienna after a week-long visit to Jordan, during which he met with His Highness Crown Prince Hasan and Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat.

Officials Meet Canadian Military Delegation

JN061237 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 May 84

[Text] Amman — Staff Lieutenant General Ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, this morning received Major General Johnston, heading the delegation of teachers and students from the Canadian War College.

The meeting was also attended by the Jordanian chief of staff, the Canadian ambassador in Amman, Ambassador MacLellan, deputy head of the delegation; and the Canadian military attache.

The secretary general of the Foreign Ministry also received the delegation today. He reviewed the situation in the Middle East in general, and the developments of the Palestinian question in particular. He explained to the delegation the dimensions of the Israeli measures in the occupied territories and its policy to Judaize the land and evict its legitimate inhabitants. He praised Canada's role in supporting the peace plans and called for a more effective role to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region and to guarantee the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The secretary general answered questions from members of the delegation, which focused on the Jordanian position toward the region's problems. He pointed out in his answers that Jordan has always sought to implement a just and lasting peace in the region, while Israel still insists on its intransigent position and continues to have expansionist designs.

U.S. 'Political Umbrella' Over Israel Hit

JN070900 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 May 84 pp 1, 27

[Editorial: "The United States, the Umbrella of Aggression"]

[Text] The U.S. pledge to Israel to use its veto at the UN Security Council against any Lebanese attempt to oust Israeli occupation forces from southern Lebanon, confirms without a doubt that the continuation of Israeli occupation of Lebanese territory is a U.S. decision which is no less hostile and scornful toward the Arabs than the U.S. decision through which Israel carried out the occupation in the summer of 1982.

This extensive political umbrella that the United States presents to Israel, makes it more clear than ever, that the strategic alliance — which Washington has attempted to play down — is dictating this U.S. policy and placing the potential of the United States in the hands of the Tel Aviv rulers, be it to carry out their aggression against the Arabs, or to continue their occupation of Arab territory.

It can be said with certainty, that Israeli occupation of Arab territory since 1967 could not have continued and strengthened, were it not for the unending tide of material and military aid to Israel. It can also be said that the U.S. political umbrella, at the disposal of Israel in the UN Security Council and other international political forums, has continuously and under unfavorable conditions, enabled enemy leaders to face international isolation and to ignore international public opinion that calls on Israel to submit to UN resolutions and to adhere to the principles of international right and justice.

Israeli information sources yesterday revealed new pledges made by the U.S. Administration to the director of the Israeli Foreign Ministry on preventing Lebanon from obtaining an international resolution demanding Israeli withdrawal from occupied southern Lebanon. We see in all this, new U.S. confirmation of its blatant hostility to just and legitimate Arab causes. We cannot ignore the fact that this deep U.S. scorn for the Arab nation is simultaneous with the breakdown in Arab solidarity formulas, and with the deepening of secondary Arab differences that have bequeathed this nation with great weakness and reversals and that have exposed our flanks to all the enemies.

The United States, that today does not hesitate to oppose Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon and which pledges to cover the continuation of the present Israeli state of expansionism and invasion, will not refrain in the future, considering present circumstances, from publicly asking Israel to extend its aggression against this Arab country or against any other. This will be possible if the current Arab state of affairs continues, a state of affairs laden with numbness and capitulation that contradicts with their glorious history and with their current potential, human, and material resources.

Arab Stand Urged Against New Travel Permit Rules

JN070918 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 7 May 84

[Press review]

[Excerpt] Under the headline "The New Conspiracy," *AR-RA'Y* says: During the past few days, Israeli authorities have started applying new measures concerning travel permits in an attempt to harass our steadfast kinfolk and to create harsher circumstances in order to empty the Arab land prior to annexing it to the Zionist entity.

AR-RA'Y adds: What confirms the aggressive and oppressive nature of the Zionist measures is that the occupation authorities have specified the month of August as the deadline for citizens to renew their travel permits. This period is not long enough to enable the hundreds of thousands of citizens who are working in the Gulf countries and others all over the world to return in time to obtain the new permits. This indicates that the Israeli authorities plan to create circumstances that serve their aggressive goals and legalize the deportation of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their homeland.

AR-RA'Y concludes: We believe this issue must receive great Arab attention, especially since the time specified by the occupation authorities to implement their plot does not allow any kind of delay or procrastination for taking countermeasures to stop the destructive effects of the new Zionist plan.

Israeli Society Seen as 'Organized Terrorism'

JN051957 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 5 May 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Israeli society has changed into a society of organized terrorism, that commits cold-blooded crimes against Arab citizens in occupied Arab territories. This clearly points to the end result of the Likud Government during the past 7 years.

No matter how much Israeli authorities try to acquit themselves of these crimes by presenting lies or misleading excuses, such as saying that the perpetrators of the crimes are insane or that they are extremists with no party or movement affiliation, the facts that have surfaced in the past few days confirm the presence of terrorist organizations, even inside Army ranks, which are active with government cover and Army patronage.

It seems the Shamir government discovered the danger of this organized terrorist trend, after it had affected the Israelis themselves; so it has resorted to a series of arrests to camouflage the danger of the existing terrorist organizations and to lessen the impact of organized terrorism in Israel.

The charade of arrests presently being made by the Shamir government will not in reality and dimension go beyond the charade of transferring Sharon from one ministry to another. The best proof of the policy adopted by the Israeli Government to conceal evidence from condemnation, is its insistence on not revealing the contents of the Kahan Commission's findings and encouraging organized terrorism against Arabs inside occupied Arab territories and outside.

The Israeli terrorist attempts exposed last week were not the first, and will not be the last, as long as Israel's objective is to acquire the Arab land free of its legitimate owners. This objective is the objective of Shamir's government: It is an end that justifies any means even if they are terrorist means as they were, in the beginning, at the Dayr Yasin and Kafr Qasim massacres and later at the Sabra and Shatila carnages.

The means adopted by Israel since 1948 — which cannot be accepted by the civilized world — are the reasons for the vicious circle in which the Middle East problem has been moving from the beginning. The Middle East problem will remain inside this circle as long as Israel thinks it can achieve Arab capitulation to its conditions, which are rejected in their context and entirety, through organized terrorism.

When the Israelis understand the importance of changing into a civilized state that employs logic and reason to understand the problems of the region and find realistic solutions that are accepted by everybody, then peace will dawn on the Middle East, but not before the darkness of Israeli terrorism in the region is eradicated.

Internal and external terrorism will not bring peace to Israel. It will not give Israel a land void of its inhabitants in the occupied Arab territories, and will not make foreign countries praise its terrorism and glorify its hegemony in the Middle East.

Since terrorism can only breed its opposite, in terms of objective and method, in the spirits of peoples, it is futile for Israel to continue adopting such practices that will only bring more severe losses to it in all fields and levels.

Terrorism today, inside Israel, is causing extensive arguments. It is without doubt that this attitude will not help Israeli leaders solve their problems inside and outside the occupied territories. On the contrary, it will intensify their problems in all fields. The Arabs who have effectively resisted the Israeli terror campaigns inside and outside the occupied territories, are better qualified today than at any other time, to face these campaigns and deal with them in a suitable manner. the Israeli leaders must realize that terrorism must perish in the end because it will never achieve any positive results due to its irregular nature which conflicts with the demands of the people of the region for peaceful, stable, and secure living.

The phenomenon of terrorism will perish and the Arab land will remain for its owners and citizens in the end.

Briefs

PETRA-JNA-TASS COOPERATION — Jawad Maraqah, director general of the Jordanian News Agency PETRA met in his office yesterday with Soviet Ambassador Rafik Nishanov. They reviewed the cooperation and exchange of information between PETRA, TASS, and APN. The meeting was attended by the TASS and APN correspondents in Jordan. [Text][Amman *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* in Arabic 4 May 84 p 3 JN]

Junblatt To Join Cabinet as Public Works Minister

NC071708 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Foreign news agencies reported that Walid Junblatt has agreed to join the Cabinet as minister of public works and tourism.

Birri Outlines Goals, Priorities in Cabinet Post

NC071855 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Nabih Birri said tonight that his conditions have been met and that what is important is to move Lebanon to a state of greater struggle [jihad] for the liberation of the south and the western Al-Biqa'. In a statement he made tonight, Birri said: What is important is that we succeed in moving Lebanon to a state of greater struggle [jihad] for the liberation of the south, for the unity and reconstruction of Lebanon, and for the achievement of justice. What is also important is that we join hands for the sake of these goals. We will work through a government of national unity to tackle the national questions. God grants success and we hope for his support.

Replying to a question, Birri said: The important aspect of the portfolio of minister of state for south Lebanon and reconstruction affairs is to care for the liberation of the south and for the southerners' steadfastness under the occupation. We will use all means for liberating the western Al-Biqa'. The other aspect is reconstruction, particularly in the areas that suffered from the war. He pointed out that the government's policy statement is that agreed upon and declared following the Damascus meeting between Presidents al-Asad and al-Jumayyil. The program will define the liberation of the south, justice, and the abolition of political sectarianism. It is the inevitable outcome of the Lausanne conference and the Damascus summit.

Replying to another question, Minister Birri said: Our option is always a broad-level government of national accord. We always maintained a stand on developments. Prime Minister Karami had affirmed that this is what he was able to achieve [not further clarified]. As you know, we had our conditions for joining the Cabinet. What happened today meets these conditions.

Replying to a question about the priorities of the government, he said: My personal view is that the south must be given priority.

Cabinet Also To Be Higher Defense Council

NC080628 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] Opposition sources have spoken about an agreement, reached following contacts between Beirut and Damascus, that the Cabinet with all its members should also function as the Higher Defense Council. The sources added that it is this agreement that encouraged Birri and Junblatt to change their minds about not participating in the government. The sources expect this matter to be announced officially during the next Cabinet meeting.

The sources heralded wide-scale improvement in the security situation as well as the opening of new crossing points. The contacts that took place during the past 2 days and that are expected to be resumed in the next few days focused on the security situation. Meetings were held between former ministers Narwan Hamadah and Khalid Junblatt and Army and Internal Security Forces officials to exchange proposals on the security arrangements that should be made on the road to B'abda Palace to ensure access to it, because the arrival in it by helicopters is neither a permanent nor a reassuring solution.

The sources also discussed the government's statement, affirming that its basic provisions are ready. These provisions were approved during the Lebanese-Syrian summit in Damascus. On the basis of these provisions, the agreement was reached on forming the new government.

Franjiyah Declares He Will Not Hamper Government

Franjiyah-Karami Understanding

NC071619 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1540 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Political circles expressed satisfaction over the latest developments, because these can only mean that the government of national unity will begin to function. Well-informed sources said former President Sulayman Franjiyah is maintaining his stand on the Cabinet issue, but he will not place any burden on the government of national unity. This judgment follows the political understanding between Franjiyah and Prime Minister Karami and comes in light of Prime Minister Karami's statement expressing understanding for Franjiyah's stand.

Al-Jumayyil-Franjiyah Meeting

NC080838 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil returned to the presidential palace in B'abda at 1015 today after a visit to Al-Batrun where he met with former President Sulayman Franjiyah at the residence of Lawyer George Daww. The 90-minute meeting was attended by Interior Minister Dr 'Abdallah ar-Rasi and Zgharta-Az-Zawiyah political command member Robert Franjiyah. After the meeting, President Franjiyah declined to make any statement, pointing out that he will hold his weekly news conference in 30 minutes' time. It has been learned that the discussions during the meeting focused on the general situation and the formation of the new government.

Sham'un Still Opposes Enlarging Government

NC080655 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] Continuous contacts took place yesterday, especially in the morning, before the decree on Minister Birri's appointment was issued. In this respect, President al-Jumayyil met with [former] President Camille Sham'un, minister of finance, housing, and cooperatives. Sham'un said after the meeting: I hope that this

week will be a good week and one of reassurance. Naturally what will bring this about is the achievement of a complete and comprehensive cease-fire so that everyone going to work will be reassured about his fate. Sham'un expressed his conviction that the issue of the Cabinet will be resolved soon in a manner that will enable the Cabinet to commence its work. He expected the Cabinet to hold a meeting this week but doubted that all the ministers would attend. He said: However, contacts are being held with [former] President Sulayman Franjiyah so as to resolve the problem of the minister who is to represent him in the government and who will represent the north. He said that he is opposed to enlarging the government, adding: I personally prefer quality to quantity.

Armenians Demand To Be Represented in Government

NC041334 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 May 84

[Text] Within the framework of reaction to the Cabinet formation, [the Armenian] Tashnag Party pointed out in a statement today that the rights of the Armenian community are being constantly ignored and that it was not asked to participate in the two national dialogue conferences in Geneva and Lausanne, nor in the government. The party expressed reservation regarding the formation of the new government and emphasized the right of the Armenians to be represented.

Sham'un Takes Over Housing, Cooperatives Ministry

NC080844 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] A short time ago, [former] President Camille Sham'un, minister of housing and cooperatives, took over the Ministry of Housing and Cooperatives from his predecessor Engineer Baha' ad-Din al-Bisat.

Minister Qasir Takes Over Duties of Office

NC071621 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 7 May 84

[Excerpt] Victor Qasir, minister of industry and oil, today took over his duties at the Industry and Oil Ministry from his predecessor George Afram at a ceremony held at the ministry this morning. The ceremony was attended by senior officials.

Skaf, Karami Discuss Official Media Status

NC071728 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Information Minister Joseph Skaf said efforts are being made to eliminate the remaining obstacles in the way of security and national accord. Prime Minister Karami met today with Information Minister Skaf to review the general situation, particularly in the south and the western Al-Biqa', and the citizens' suffering under Israeli occupation. Minister Skaf said they discussed information issues, including the need to unify the official media and extend television service to all Lebanese areas.

Phalange Party Meeting Reviews Developments

NC071449 Beirut Domestic Service in English 1405 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] The Phalange Party Political Bureau held a meeting this afternoon chaired by Pierre al-Jumayyil and attended by all members. Discussions during the meeting centered on the current affairs, especially the security and Cabinet conditions. Pierre al-Jumayyil reviewed at the beginning of the meeting the stages that had been covered by the contacts relevant to the new Cabinet and the party's positions on these issues. The participants also viewed a security report on the latest incidents which inflicted a number of casualties and extensive property damage. The bureau decided to hold its weekly regular meeting on Friday instead of Wednesday so that Pierre al-Jumayyil could participate in the Cabinet's meetings.

Syrian Forces Foil Israeli Landing Attempt

Gunboats Sighted Off Coast

NC071829 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1815 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Observers and security officials have been very attentively watching movements of Israeli gunboats this evening opposite the Lebanese coast from north of Jisr al-Madfun as far as Shikka. According to information received by the Voice of Lebanon, The Syrian forces stationed on (Kafr 'Abida) fired antiarmor and artillery shells at a gunboat. The shells exploded in the sea. The Israeli naval movements were continuing at 2030.

Syrians, Gunboat Exchange Fire

NC072000 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1925 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Providing new details on the confrontation between an Israeli gunboat and the Syrian forces in the (Kafr 'Abida-Al-Batrun) area, the Voice of Lebanon correspondent says the Syrian forces fired seven artillery shells and volleys of antiarmor fire at 1900 tonight at an Israeli gunboat that appeared off the (Kafr 'Abida) coast. The gunboat was not hit. Half an hour later, the Israeli gunboat returned to bombard the (Kafr 'Abida) coast. The Syrian forces all along the coast have been put on a state of alert. In the meantime, Israeli gunboats were patrolling off the coast from Jisr al-Madfun until Shikka. These gunboats withdrew from the Al-Madfun area at approximately 2115.

Gunboats Flee Area

JN072020 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Press correspondents in Tripoli, northern Lebanon, reported that this evening the Syrian artillery shelled six Israeli gunboats that were patrolling the coasts of northern Lebanon between Jisr al-Madfun and the township of Kafr 'Ubayda. The correspondents added that the Israeli gunboats did not return fire, but fled the area. The inhabitants of these areas confirmed

these reports and added that the Syrian artillery fired shells for 30 minutes in the direction of the sea this evening.

Damascus on Gunboat Activity

JN072028 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Israeli gunboat movements were sighted this evening off the Lebanese coast from northern of Jisr al-Madfun until Shikka in northern Lebanon. These movements are part of the acts of provocation by the Israeli forces of invasion against the peaceful citizens in Lebanon.

Israeli Landing Attempt

NC081120 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1050 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] The Israeli enemy yesterday launched an attack against Syrian positions in northern Lebanon. At 1930 yesterday, the Syrian positions near Jisr al-Madfun and Kafr 'Ubayda opened fire at Israeli gunboats that were sighted between Al-Batrun and the township of Kafr 'Ubayda. Eyewitnesses said that the gunboats were cruising near the shore and that the Syrian fire continued approximately 20 minutes and forced them to sail away. Security committee sources of the Northern Coordination Committee said that the Syrian forces confronted an Israeli landing attempt near Jisr al-Madfun and that a 1-hour battle took place between the two sides. Heavy artillery and rockets were used in the battle. These sources pointed out that the national and Islamic forces were deployed along the coast as a precaution against any emergency. The eyewitnesses said that the gunboats sailed northward to the port of Sil'ata, where they dropped certain objects into the water. Other reports said that Israeli gunboats were seen off the northern coast Wednesday, 24 hours after the Syrian forces arrested three Israelis who worked in the Israeli liaison office in Ad-Dubayyah.

VOL Reports U.S. Priest Kidnapped in West Beirut

NC081200 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] Gunmen in the Al-Manarah area of West Beirut have kidnapped an American clergyman, Minister (Benjamin Weir), whose fate is still unknown. It has been reported that the Amal Movement is holding contacts for his release.

Reportage on Security Situation, Disengagement Attempts

Karami Condemns Worsening Situation

NC051837 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1800 GMT 5 May 84

[Text] A Voice of the Mountain correspondent telephoned His Excellency Prime Minister Rashid Karami. Responding to a question regarding his position on today's exacerbation of the security situation, Karami said there are certain factions which have been in the habit of causing tension for no reason, because they have grown accustomed to these methods which only serve the devil. Karami added: We condemn all practices that cause further suffering, devastation, and destruction. We urge every able man to seek an end to this state of affairs, particularly since national unity, which has a unanimous consensus among the people, must be an incentive to reduce suffering and achieve safety and security for the citizens.

Asked about the positive initiatives which have recently emerged, Karami said: I am confident that the intentions aim at achieving salvation as soon as possible. The factors that delay salvation are justified to the point [sentence as heard]. [Words indistinct] this promises an early solution.

PSP Issues Statement

NC051232 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 5 May 84

[Text] Commenting on the limited incident that took place in the At-Tariq al-Jadidah area today, a Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] source said the PSP wished to note the following:

1. Neither the PSP nor its members in Beirut have anything to do with the shooting from an orange MBW at two citizens in that area. Passengers in that car also shot at PSP members, wounding one.
2. The incident was settled through sincere cooperation with Prime Minister Rashid Karami, Mufti Hasan Khalid, and Jabal Lubnan Mufti Muhammad 'Ali al-Juzu, as well as with the 6th Brigade Command and officers in charge of the Internal Security Forces. The situation in the area is back to normal.
3. We believe this incident was caused by certain subversive elements, who have been trying to foment sedition among the members of the nationalist ranks in West Beirut in order to serve suspect and well-known purposes.
4. We are serious about supporting and cooperating with officials who are investigating this incident in order to uncover the perpetrators and bring them to court.
5. We extend our thanks to all those who cooperated with us to contain the incident and emphasize our deep concern about security in nationalist Beirut and about all people living in it. We reject any attempt to accuse us because, we are innocent. We urge everyone — citizens and officials — to be fully aware when tackling similar incidents that may occur as a result of machinations by subversive elements, who seek to divide and harm us.

Various Groups To Cooperate

NC051438 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1300 GMT 5 May 84

[Text] The meeting which was held in Dar al-Fatwa ended at 1430. It was attended by a Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] delegation headed by Fu'ad Salman; an independent Nasirite movement — Al-Murabitun delegation headed by Nuhad Urfali; the Mufti's office director general, Dr Husayn al-Quwwatli; and Shaykh Khaldun 'Urayyib. The meeting discussed ways to bring the security situation under control in nationalist Beirut, and to frustrate the attempts of various schemers and agents. It was

agreed that all should cooperate to bring about the withdrawal of gunmen from the streets and to instruct the 6th Brigade and the internal security department to investigate the incident [5 May clashes between Al-Murabitun-PSP gunmen], identify the perpetrators, and tackle future incidents in coordination with the PSP, the Amal Movement, and the Al-Murabitun.

Beirut-Damascus Highway Cut

NC071425 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Foreign correspondents report that clashes broke out today between gunmen of the Progressive Socialist Party and Palestinians in the Sawfar-Bhamdun area. As a result, the Beirut-Damascus International Highway was cut at Sawfar.

PLO, Druze Forces Clash

JN071528 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in English 1500 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Throughout Lebanon today there were clashes reported between PLO and Druze forces at Bhamdun as well as along the Beirut-Damascus highway. The road has been reportedly closed with the cause of the conflict not yet known. And in Beirut a Druze spokesman denied that any confrontation had taken place or that the road was closed. He did mention that the new security measures had been implemented in that area, but he did not elaborate.

Clashes Continue in Beirut

NC071707 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1642 GMT 7 May 84

[Telephone dispatch from Voice of Lebanon editorial room — live]

[Text] Clashes intensified a short while ago on the Galerie Sim'an-Mar Mika'il line in Beirut's southern suburb. We were told a few minutes ago that artillery shells hit the Al-Hazimiyah area. Areas in Al-Hazimiyah and Al-Hadath near Galerie Sim'an, the Al-Hayah hospital periphery, and At-Tayyunuah circle are coming under heavy sniper fire. The Army's positions on the Ashmun, Al-Yasu'iyah, Martyrs Square, and Al-Barjawi lines in Beirut are coming under concentrated shelling. Shells fell on the perimeter of An-Nasirah, Al-Barjawi, and Burj [word indistinct]. Amal Movement leader Birri personally issued orders to his men to cease fire. Although security officials were optimistic that the fighting would stop following Birri's appeal, the clashes are continuing.

Amal Appeals for Cease-Fire

NC071841 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1825 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Citizens are asked to be vigilant and take precautions, because when certain people were firing in the air jubilantly [to celebrate Amal leader Birri's joining Cabinet], the Phalangist artillery positions in East Beirut, in an attempt to exploit and torpedo the situation, opened indiscriminate fire on the residential areas in West Beirut. A short while ago, a responsible source in the Amal Movement made the following statement: The great steadfastness by our people motivates us to work harder for Lebanon's unity, sovereignty, and independence. Everyone must concentrate on the south and save the bullets for the battle of liberation and construction. We appeal to everyone to stop this useless firing. An Amal security source said: Every-one is asked to stop firing, or else they will be held responsible and pursued. The competent forces will detain violators.

Intensive Gunfire in Sidon Area

NC071903 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1852 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Our correspondent in southern Lebanon reported a short while ago that intensive gunfire is being heard in the Sidon area, particularly in the northern side of 'Ayn al-Hulwah Camp. The gunfire, which started at 2100, is still in progress. Flares are being fired over Sidon. The enemy forces, supported by the so-called southern army of Lebanon, are searching the area. There are no other details because of the security cordon imposed by the Israeli occupation forces.

Further on Clashes in Sidon

NC072041 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] The Israeli forces are still surrounding 'Ayn al-Hulwah Camp [in Sidon] and firing flares. Violent clashes occurred from 2130 to 2230 tonight between members of Husayn 'Akar — the National Guard — and their opponents. The clashes began when passengers in a car opened fire at a National Guard post inside the camp. One of the men at the post was wounded. Clashes then broke out between the two sides.

Clashes in Beirut, Suburb

NC072119 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] It appears that a new cease-fire agreement, which was announced at 2300 tonight, has not succeeded. The security situation worsened on the lines in Beirut and its southern suburb. Residential quarters opposite the lines in Ra's an-Nab', the old markets, Sodeco, and Khandaq al-Ghamiq were the target of mortar fire until 2345. There were exchanges with medium- and heavy-caliber weapons at the Al-Barbir-Museum crossing point.

VOL Reports Syrian Reinforcements in Al-Biqa'

NC050506 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0315 GMT 5 May 84

[Text] Our Al-Biqa' correspondent reports that Syrian reinforcements have been seen in the Kfar Zabad plains and near the Sami al-Khatib farms.

Israelis, Syrians Reportedly Clash 6 May
NC061433 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Our Al-Biqa' correspondent reports that Al-Murabitun supporters in the central Al-Biqa' are bringing in weapons from Libya and are reinforcing their positions. A clash with machine guns occurred last night between the Israelis and Syrians.

RFL Claims Inter-Syrian Fighting in Al-Biqa'
NC071419 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] It was reported from the Al-Biqa' that a clash broke out during the past 24 hours between members of the Syrian special forces and members of the regular Syrian Army in 'Anjar in the Al-Biqa'. Three members of the special forces were wounded and taken to the Syrian field hospital in 'Anjar. Syrian roadblocks were reported in the Al-Karak area. Their aim is to confiscate publications and newspapers published by Amal Movement members. Relations between the Syrians and inhabitants of Brittal are tense. Some Brittal inhabitants had assaulted three Syrians. The town is still cordoned off by the Syrians.

Syrians, Hezbollah Members Clash in Al-Biqa'
NC071721 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] According to reports from the Al-Biqa', a clash occurred at 1910 between Hezbollah Party Members and Syrian forces manning a checkpoint in (Qi'at). Two Hezbollah Party members were wounded. Members of the party in the area, where tension prevails, have been put on the alert. Gunmen in Harat Hurayk in Beirut's southern suburb set fire to Saint Joseph's Church and drove out the worshippers. The gunmen occupied 16 houses and looted their contents. This came in the wake of Nabil Birri's call to Christians to return to their houses in the suburb.

U.S., Israel Set Up Radar South of Lebanon
GF071632 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Kuwait, 7 May (WAKH) — A secret report carried Monday by local *AS-SIYASAH* daily revealed that an Israeli-American engineering team has finished setting up a highly advanced radar station on top of Mount Thawrah over Jazzin area, south of Lebanon.

Without disclosing the source of the information, the daily noted the station has been connected to a mobile operation team aboard a NATO barge ploughing the sea between An-Naqourah and Sa'diyat on the southern shores of Lebanon.

The report indicated the barge is equipped with electronic communication devices which relay information directly to Israeli Army intelligence and to helicopter pad in (Kurj Khayami) in the Lebanese territories, to bring about prompt reaction to any indication of military moves in the region.

According to the newspaper the barge is most advanced and is especially designed for intelligence operations. The radar station is no less advanced with a capability of depicting military posts within a diameter of 50 kilometers and of monitoring military moves over Lebanese and Syrian territories.

Palestinians Reopen Offices in West Beirut
NC071730 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Security sources say the PFLP has reopened an office in West Beirut. The officials in charge of the office are 'Sa Khirmawi, 'Umar Naffa', and Ahmad Nadir. The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine has opened an office near the Aiha school. Husayn 'Abd Rabbu is in charge of this office. A Palestinian group was formed 3 days ago under the command of Qasim al-Haj to fight alongside the Amal Movement.

Israelis Forcing Southerners To Leave Area
NC041142 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 4 May 84

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces today prevented the workers in Sidon from entering Government House to carry out their duties. Cleaning out and organizing the files in the building began 2 weeks ago in preparation for resuming work at Government House following the evacuation of the Israeli occupation forces. The governor of the south said he will contact officials in Beirut to brief them on the matter and to receive the appropriate instructions. Reports from the south this morning said Israeli occupation forces are demanding that the southerners leave the south for good in return for granting them permits to travel to Beirut. Travelers from the south confirmed this and also said no movement is allowed on the Batir-Jazzin road for those 18 years and older, except by permits from the Israeli military governor which are given in return for a pledge not to return to the south.

Memo on Israeli Aggression Submitted to UN

JN080619 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] United Nations — Syrian UN representative Diya' Allah al-Fattal has affirmed that the Zionist entity is preparing for new aggression against Syrian territory and is practicing terrorism against the Arab people in the occupied territory, implementing its expansionist settlement policy. In a memorandum to the chairman of the Security Council, Al-Fattal said the record of world Zionism and its heir Israel shows terrorism is the substance of Zionist ideology through which Zionism succeeded in occupying Palestine and other territories.

Romania's Ceausescu To Make Visit in May

JN041135 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 4 May 84

[Text] Nicolae Ceausescu, secretary general of the Romanian Communist Party and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, and his wife will pay a cordial visit to the Syrian Arab Republic at the invitation of President Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the Syrian Arab Republic, and his wife during the first half of May 1984.

Al-Kasm Receives Algerian Minister of State

JN051516 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1415 GMT 5 May 84

[Text] Damascus, 5 May (SANA) — Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm today received Mostefa Benamar, Algerian minister of state for budget and public funds affairs. The two sides discussed cooperation between Syria and Algeria and means of promoting this cooperation. The meeting was attended by Dr Kamal Sharaf, minister of state for planning affairs; the Syrian ambassador in Algiers; the Algerian ambassador in Damascus; and Saleh ben Toubbah, head of the Arab countries desk at the Algerian Foreign Ministry.

The discussion also dealt with the possibility of broadening existing cultural, economic, and trade cooperation including the formation of higher joint committees and subcommittees to draw up practical formulas, and the exchange of expertise in the fields of transport, housing, and tourism and in several industrial fields.

The two sides also stressed the need to adopt practical steps to promote the various aspects of cooperation between the two fraternal countries and bolster their joint struggle against the enemies of the Arab nation and its pan-Arab cause.

The Algerian minister conveyed to Dr al-Kasm a formal invitation on behalf of the Algerian Government to visit Algeria. The prime minister expressed his gratitude and promised to accept the invitation. The date will be fixed later.

Mashariqah Meets Ba'thist Cadres in Aleppo

JN051818 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 5 May 84

[Text] Aleppo — Vice President Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah and Comrades Tawfiq Salihah, Wahib Tannus, Said Hammadi, Ilyas al-Lati, and Sulayman Qaddah, membrs of the Ba'th Party Regional Command, continued their meetings today with the Ba'thist cadres in the fourth workers branch; the branches of the martyrs Taysir al-Halabi; Muhyi ad-Din Bakkur, and Muhammad Shihadah; the branch of the employees, professions, and internal security forces; the branches of A'zaz, Manbij, Jarabulus, and 'Ayn al-'Arab areas in the presence of Rashid Ikhtirini, secretary of the party's branch in Aleppo, and the comrade members of the branch.

During the meeting, the comrades explained the current political developments in the Arab region, the dimensions of the conspiratorial imperialist plans, and the U.S.-Zionist threats against our country aimed at imposing capitulatory solutions and spreading U.S. influence over our Arab region. However, the awareness of our masses and their rallying around struggler leader Hafiz al-Asad's wise and brave leadership have foiled the conspirators' plans and undermined their efforts to harm Syria's steadfastness and its principled and firm positions. They also asserted that the bases of our party and our people's masses will lie in wait for anyone who thinks of tampering with the security of the homeland and the citizens, explaining the positions of revolutionary Syria, Ba'thist Syria, and Hafiz al-Asad's Syria have foiled all the imperialist and Zionist designs aimed at spreading hegemony over the entire Arab region.

The vice president and the members of the Ba'th Party Regional Command also praised the honorable role of our Armed Forces, which recorded the most heroic pages during their honorable battles to repulse aggression and confront the Zionist invasion of fraternal Lebanon. They also explained that the abrogation of the 17 May agreement, by which the United States and Israel tried to turn Lebanon into an Israeli protectorate, was a great political victory for the Arab nation whose struggle is being led by struggler comrade Hafiz al-Asad. They said the abrogation of the agreement was an obvious defeat of the United States and Israel and a defeat of all the imperialist plans in the region. They also affirmed that Syria under the struggler comrade is now stronger than ever and will not be terrorized by U.S. threats. They added that Syria will reply strongly and resolutely to any aggression, and is confident it will achieve victory because it is armed with the will of the masses and strugglers of this country.

INA Cites Press Reports on Officers' Assassinations

JN041238 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1210 GMT 4 May 84

[Text] Paris, 4 May (INA) — Press reports say here today that a high-ranking Syrian official — a colonel in the defense companies under the command of the Syrian president's brother Rif'at al-Asad — was recently assassinated in Syria.

The French paper *LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS* today quoted well-informed sources as saying that when the colonel was killed, he was accompanied by one of the local officials who is close to Rif'at al-Asad. The paper continues: Another officer from the defense companies was also killed in Damascus recently at the hands of unknown persons. The paper does not give any clarifications or details on the identity of the Syrian military men, nor does it fix the dates on which they were killed.

ATH-THAWRAH Warns Israel Against Aggression

JN050756 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 5 May 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Israel Will Pay a Heavy Price for Any Military Aggression," *ATH-THAWRAH* says: Indications of a possible imminent Israeli aggression against Syria are increasing. Evidence of U.S. participation in preparing and planning this premeditated aggression is noted in the U.S. practices toward the region and in the U.S. military and economic aid pouring into Israel. It is no coincidence that the U.S. Administration set up an airlift to transport weapons to Israel at a time when the Zionist enemy is escalating the situation in the region and massing large military concentrations in Al-Biqa' in preparation for a premeditated hostile action.

Israel, which is suffering from an acute domestic crises as a result of the failure of its expansionist scheme in Lebanon, imagines that by aggression it can end its crises or mitigate their complications, especially since the march of national accord has begun its natural advance toward national unity and increasing efforts to end the Israeli occupation of the south; a matter that will terminate the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the hegemonic scheme toppled with the abrogation of the 17 May agreement. This is more than tragic to the Israeli Government, which is on the threshold of new elections.

Syria is well aware of Israel's expansionist, hostile nature. It is dealing with matters from this objective viewpoint, depending on its strong determination to defend itself and its brothers in Lebanon. It possesses self-confidence and faith in the justice of the cause for which it is fighting. This firm Syrian stand is backed by its people's readiness to sacrifice, the Arab masses' cohesion with it, and the support extended to its struggle by the world forces of freedom and progress. Israel will pay a heavy price for any aggression because it will not be a picnic. The aggressors will only reap further losses, disappointment, and failure.

Shamir's 'Hawkish' Statements Denounced

JN071325 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 May 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is afflicted with a disease of making a profusion of hawkish statements that smack of gunpowder and adventure. Hardly a day passes without Shamir making a statement to the news media in Israel, the United States, or elsewhere, showing off Israel's military muscle and directing threats against Syria in particular. In his last statement, Shamir said Syria must either release the three Israelis or else. He then elaborated and said he hoped Israel would not be compelled to use force. Such talk may benefit Shamir at home in boosting the Likud's election campaign or diverting public attention from acute internal economic crises to false outside crises, but it will certainly not affect the Syrian position or free the three Israelis from the Syrian grip.

Shamir and his overseas supporters know Syria does not fear threats, succumb to pressure, or permit anyone to talk to it from a position of strength and superiority. The decision that is made in Syria stems from Syrian willpower and assessment. No outside factors whatsoever can affect the Syrian decision. Shamir knows full well what his three men were doing. He knows what their mission was, what purpose they were serving, and what they were carrying. Out of this knowledge, he should have understood what the Syrian attitude would be toward such a mission and the perpetrators. The Israeli rulers who ordered the invasion of Lebanon, the perpetration of massacres, the destruction of Palestinian camps and Lebanese villages, and the establishment of concentration camps; the Israeli rulers who caused thousands of dead and wounded in this continuous operation and who are now preparing for a new adventure; these rulers may be able to add fuel to the fire in the region and commit more major stupidities, but it is certain that they are facing a new situation and new balances of power in the area, a situation and balance which will not turn a new adventure into a picnic or new aggression into a profitable operation. The price which Israel will pay in any new adventure will be a very high one indeed. The Israeli rulers may again be able to set the Middle East ablaze, but they will certainly not be the side that will decide when, where, and how to end the conflagration.

The anti-Syrian statements by Shamir and U.S. officials neither scare Syria nor affect its decisions and positions. Moreover, such statements will not change the real situation in Lebanon. The urgent issue in Lebanon is not the detention of the three Israeli terrorists, but the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon as soon as possible and without any conditions under the UN resolutions and according to the Lebanese people's wish, and the removal of all the effects and vestiges of the invasion, including the illegitimate Israeli Liaison Bureau in Ad-Dubayyah and all forms of Israeli presence in Lebanon. Shamir is called on to pull his forces out of Lebanon. The aggressor has no right to impose his conditions or wish on others.

AL-BA'TH Reports Israeli Radar Station in Jazzin

JN080850 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 8 May 84

[From the press review]

[Text] In its "Opinion" column under the headline "U.S.-Zionist Fait Accompli or Delusion?" *AL-BA'TH* says: All those who understood and followed up the nature of U.S.-Zionist relations did not doubt the agreement of strategic cooperation and alliance

between Tel Aviv and Washington would be implemented as soon as it was signed and that its effects would be first noticeable in our region, especially in the Syrian-Lebanese context. We are saying this in view of the fact that the Washington-Tel Aviv axis had expedited the establishment of that kind of cooperation on all the political and military levels. It had also expedited the implementation of the agreement's provisions and the translation of its objectives into established facts on the ground before any force in region, especially the Syrian force, could become a real danger threatening the entire U.S. plan and dispelling Zionism's expansionist and domination dreams. The first scene of joint U.S.-Zionist action was Lebanon, where the infamous U.S.-backed invasion took place followed by the 17 May agreement which made Lebanon captive to Israeli willpower almost one year ago. The paper adds: The parties to the strategic agreement carried out several quick projects on Lebanese territory during the invasion and under the now defunct 17 May agreement in the hope of turning them into a fait accompli, similar to all the measures which the Zionist authorities have carried out in the other occupied Arab territories and which they now want the international community to believe have become a fait accompli. In this context, reports are rife these days that an Israeli-U.S. technical team has completed the building of a sophisticated radar station on Mount Tura in Jazzin in Lebanon. According to the data obtained by certain Arab quarters, this station is linked to the operations room of a NATO warship patroling the southern Lebanese coast from Ra's an-Naqurah to As-Sa'diyat. This is one of the most modern warships in the world, used for espionage. While we view this data within the context of our wider attitude toward the strategic cooperation agreement between the United States and the Israeli enemy and therefore resist this project as part of our resistance to the general U.S.-Zionist plan in the Arab region, we urge the Arabs, especially those who are still wagering on U.S. policy, to take a serious view of this project, which could turn the aggressive military network in Israel into an American network enjoying all the advantages of U.S. modern technology.

AL-BA'TH concludes: On the other hand, we in Syria, and within the context of our general resistance to all the plans being hatched by imperialist and Zionist circles around us, will not allow such hostile activities on Lebanon's soil and territorial waters to become a fait accompli. We will strive with all the means within our power to turn those activities into a delusion, similar to all the other delusions which Zionism has left behind on our territory, delusions which it once almost believed and thought it could also make the world believe.

Information Minister Rajjuh Interviewed

JN061858 Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 5 May 84 pp 27-29

[Interview with Information Minister Yasin Rajjuh by *AL-MUSTAQBAL* correspondent Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh in Damascus — date not given]

[Text] *AL-MUSTAQBAL*: As a new information minister, how do you define your understanding of the news media task in a country of confrontation and steadfastness like Syria?

Rajjuh: In addition to the national tasks of information well known in every country, I believe that information is for us and for all countries a real means of fighting by which we bolster the friendship of friends, aim arrows at the enemies, convey our aspirations, hopes, and ideas, and explain all the firmly established facts about the causes for whose victory we are struggling.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: What about Lebanon? How do you assess the current stage of its problem in light of the new developments, beginning with the victory scored over the 17 May agreement and ending with the Lausanne statement, the Damascus meeting, and the formation of the national unity government?

Rajjuh: The Syrian stand toward fraternal Lebanon and toward what happened and is happening in it is steady and has not changed throughout the years of the plot. Our stand — as President Hafiz al-Asad has repeatedly emphasized — supports a unified Arab Lebanon not involved in any cooperation with the Arab nation's common enemy. It is a strategic stand. The national Lebanese struggle and the sincere backing extended to it led to the abrogation of the 17 May agreement, which was intended to obliterate the Arab character of Lebanon and turn Lebanon into a crossing point to spread the Israeli hegemony in all the Arab countries.

In the light of this and as a result of the abrogation of the 17 May agreement with the Zionist enemy, the Lebanese national will was unanimous on the need to rescue Lebanon and emphasize its unity, identity, and Arab affiliation because Lebanon —like any other Arab country — cannot live away from its nation. We in Syria are optimistic about the fate of the national Lebanese issue despite our definite awareness of the wicked hands —whether Israeli or imperialist — stretched out to Lebanon. We have great confidence in our Lebanese brothers and in their ability to work hand in hand after discarding their differences and after expressing unanimous love for their homeland. We greatly hope they will be able to amputate the hands that are tampering with Lebanon's destiny.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: What are the dimensions of the important meeting recently held between Presidents al-Asad and Al-Jumayyil?

Rajjuh: What is now happening in the Lebanese arena fully explains the convictions on which agreement was reached during the president's meeting with President Amin al-Jumayyil. Karami's formation of a national unity government is one aspect of these positive convictions, which we still hope — through our cooperation with the Lebanese brothers — to practically implement in fraternal Lebanon, especially since the new Lebanese Government comprises the leaders of all sides and represents all groups. This makes us more hopeful and optimistic that the fraternal country will quickly embark on steps aimed at building Lebanon, future Lebanon that is unified, strong, free, and sovereign according to the principles of accord and balance.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Has Syria objected to the participation of any Lebanese side in the government because of its cooperation with Israel?

Rajjuh: When we called for the abrogation of the 17 May agreement and when it was abrogated through our alliance and cooperation with the nationalist Lebanese, we aimed at driving away any Israeli hegemony over Lebanon or any Israeli relationship with Lebanon. Hence, how can there be any cooperation with Israel's agents in Lebanon? Syria is seeking national accord among the disputing parties in the Lebanese arena. This requires closing any window through which the Israelis may infiltrate. Such an accord should be based on firm national foundations.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Sometimes U.S. officials make neutral statements that distinguish between the nature of the Syrian presence in Lebanon and that of the Israeli presence. How do you explain such mercurial neutrality?

Rajjuh: We are not surprised by contradictions in U.S. policy and poisition. Any statement by any U.S. official does not necessarily mean it is the U.S. position or the position of that official who made the statement because he might retract it at any time. President Hafiz al-Asad was very clear during his recent statement to a U.S. television network when he clearly explained the U.S. position toward the Arab causes and all the dimensions of relations between us and the United States. We always say the United States should be just in its dealing with the Arabs and their causes. If Israel took such a just position despite all the Zionist pressures, the Arab nation would not be attacked by Israel with U.S. weapons. President al-Asad has made a well-known statement on this point. He said the United States has no policy in the Middle East but it practices Israel's policy. However, we in Syria do not pay much attention to statements made by U.S. politicians on their country's policy toward the region because the traditional U.S. position represents complete partiality to Israel. This is well known by the Arab masses.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: What about 'Arafat? Are there mediation efforts?

Rajjuh: We have no problem with 'Arafat because, as President al-Asad put it, it is essentially a problem between 'Arafat and his brothers, and when they reach an agreement, nobody will feel there is a problem between Syria and any other side. Syria has not interfered in differences within Fatah. This does not prevent us from being closer to one side than to another. We wish all of them would agree on one viewpoint. Syria has always supported the Palestinian Arab people and their sole legitimate representative, the PLO. We have always said that struggle far from the U.S. canopy is a Palestinian national necessity and a firm pan-Arab demand. Syria considers the issue of liberating the usurped land as its own central issue. This fact is represented by the well knownSyrian sacrifices during the dozens of years since the usurpation of Palestine. Syria has made large sacrifices and given much blood and energy and many martyrs, and it is is ready to make still more sacrifices. It will never allow any tampering with the fateful issue, which is the Arabs' primary and principal issue. We do not set conditions for any Palestinian brother's behavior except keeping away from the octopus of the U.S. plans and policy aimed at covering the Zionist ambitions through subjugation and humiliation.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Is there any mediation? Did the Palestinian leaders who visit Damascus or reside in it discuss such a mediation? Will such a mediation be acceptable?

Rajjuh: I do not know of any such mediation but I can assert that none the of Palestinian leaders who met with senior officials in both the party and the government discussed this issue.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: It is no longer a secret that President Mubarak's policy and statements, the statements made by Egyptian officials, and the Egyptian media show rapprochement toward Damascus. They even defend Damascus' stands and policies. Do you consider this a prelude to a near rapprochement?

Rajjuh: Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam replied to you on this question. Khaddam asserted the only obstacle which stands between us and our brothers in Egypt is Camp David and its consequences. This obstacle still exists. Syria is anxious to see Egypt in its leading position, assuming its pan-Arab responsibilities.

We in Syria were the first to call for Arab solidarity before, during, and after the October war. This is in addition to the fact that our party considers Arab unity its first objective. Throughout history, our people have always had a trend toward unity. We are fully aware that all hostile forces fear the establishment of a unifying formula, because this step threatens their interests.

We in Syria are still struggling to achieve any minimum or maximum unitary formula. We have presented Arab solidarity to face an extraordinary general Arab situation; we have presented it as a minimum limit to our pan-Arab ambitions. However, when the fruits of solidarity have appeared, conspiracies have been concocted against it and the hostile forces were able to undermine solidarity by creating differences and divisions between the Arab countries.

As we have always been against the Camp David accords, we are waiting for the liberation of our brothers from Israel's hegemony and sway over Egypt's dignity, sovereignty, and people. Our Egyptian brothers will then find us faithful brothers to the country of Arab genuineness, Egypt of the 45 million Arabs, and the country of historical struggle for the sake of the pan-Arab interests. They will find out to what extent we welcome Egypt's return to its nation.

We have heard statements to this effect. However, we have not studied the background of these statements which — I sincerely hope — will be a prelude to the triumph of the Arab Egyptian people's will in their rejection of all agreements of submission, humiliation, non-equivalence, and hegemony.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: What about the relations with Jordan? There are reports about guarded [khajulah] steps between both sides to restore relations to normal.

Rajjuh: In answering this question, I must repeat part of my answer to the previous question. The cause of differences with our brothers in Jordan is specifically the U.S. policy. Any meetings, dialogues, or steps — although I am not acquainted with

them – are welcomed at any level and with any fraternal country. But they must be away from U.S. umbrella and hegemony, as President al-Asad asserted.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: What about the summit? Do you believe the current atmosphere in the Arab world is suitable for holding the summit?

Rajjuh: First of all we must define the meaning of the summit. The summit is held in accordance with a decision adopted by the Arab leaders. I believe when there is an agreement that the summit is a fateful meeting to discuss fateful issues, then nothing will prevent its convening. However, the nation suffers from stands and policies far away from the higher pan-Arab interests. A number of hotbeds and secondary issues resulted from this situation. All Arabs are pessimistic and bitter. Consequently, there is a conviction that any summit under these conditions will not be able to discuss and decide what is good for the big issues and the pan-Arab objectives.

Hence, I do not see any clear call for such a summit, because its convening without quaranteeing a minimum limit of success will be a reason for more division and deterioration. We must remind everybody that the summit is a means, not a purpose. We must define an objective for the summit and for solidarity, the dangers threatening us as a nation and their nature, those who stand with us in confronting dangers, and those who stand with our enemy.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Important events are taking place in Sudan. Is there anything new regarding the Syrian-Sudanese relations? Do the distinguished Syrian-Libyan relations play any role in this regard?

Rajjuh: Our relations with the Jamahiriyah are good and we are still linked with it by some sort of unitary formula. These distinguished relations with Libya are not new to anyone, not even to the Sudanese regime, which knew of these relations even before getting more involved in its subservience to the United States and in throwing itself in its lap. Therefore, these relations do not reflect on our relations with Numayri's regime, which has adopted a stand of complete subservience to the United States as well as complete indifference and even enmity to all Arab aspirations. The adverse Sudanese stands do not need to be explained or pointed out.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Is there anything new in your relations with the Soviet Union, particularly after Andropov's departure?

Rajjuh: Our relations with the Soviet friends are strategic. The two countries have a definite desire to continuously develop, bolster, and promote them. They are indeed being further promoted and consolidated. More than one Soviet delegation and envoy has recently visited Damascus. Their visits were a true expression of the two countries' commitment to bilateral friendship and cooperation and their desire to promote them for the welfare of the two peoples. We are confident our relations with the Soviet Union will be further deepened and consolidated in the coming stage, especially since the Soviet friends are strongly supporting our struggle for the sake of establishing a just peace and confronting the Zionist-imperialist onslaught.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Many Western and Arab reports refer to increasing prospects of an Israeli aggression against Syria or a strike at the Syrian forces in Lebanon. How do you view these reports?

Rajjuh: The prospects of aggression existed and will continue to exist, just like the campaigns of confusion, intrigue, and slander. All this is part of the Israeli policy. We in Syria are, as we have always been, ready to repulse the likely aggressions. In the same manner as we have emphasized throughout the years of the conflict with the Zionist enemy, we emphasize again that the Syrian is always ready to sacrifice in defense of his soil and his nation's dignity. Moreover, we possess a strong determination, a fighting will, and advanced weapons.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Much has been written and many rumors have been circulated about the domestic situation in Syria and about differences, clashes, and ambitions. How true are these?

Rajjuh: Well so much for them, because facts shatter their dreams and delusions.

Shamir Gives Interview on Independence Day

TA071547 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1405 GMT 7 May 84

[Independence Day interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer and party affairs correspondent Arye Golan, in the prime minister's office on 6 May — recorded]

[Text] [Schiffer] Mr Prime Minister, several times recently you have said that Israel is entering the final stage of the war in Lebanon, and that it is seeking a way to leave that country. What more has to happen in Lebanon for Israel to be able to find the security arrangements you mentioned?

[Shamir] Right now we have no additional military goals in Lebanon aside from those we have achieved since we first entered Lebanon. In fact, we are not interested in remaining in Lebanon anymore. We would like to reach a stage in which we are able to withdraw all of the IDF from Lebanon. We will be able to do that when, instead of the IDF, which will pull out, we are able to leave behind arrangements that, in coordination with us, guarantee that hostile — or more explicitly terrorist — elements are not able to attack Galilee from Lebanese soil.

Everyone knows this problem is not easy. It is complex due to the situation prevailing in Lebanon, where to date, there is no government that can rule southern Lebanon and with which it would be possible to reach an arrangement [hesder] to have it do the job of maintaining security and preventing terrorists from returning to that area.

[Schiffer] Does the fact that Rashid Karami is the prime minister-designate not lead you to think that perhaps it would be better to make unilateral arrangements [sidurim] and leave?

[Shamir] Unilateral arrangements [sidurim] are not a real arrangement [hesder]. After all, we need to have elements in that area after we leave it, that we would be able to rely upon to maintain the security missions we are interested in. If the central Lebanese Government does not want or is unable to do that, there must be other Lebanese elements we could entrust with those missions, and we are building such elements: We are maintaining contacts, we are building and fortifying the southern army of Lebanon— as everyone knows.

Its force is increasing and its experience is growing while it becomes more competent in fulfilling at least part of those missions. We are maintaining contacts with other local elements as well, and here and there progress is being made. We naturally will be glad if any Lebanese Government is prepared to incorporate within these arrangements [hes-derim] the local elements with which we make arrangements. This would be a good arrangement, and obviously we would similarly not object to having Syrian consent to all these arrangements.

[Schiffer] Sir, do you have any forecast today of how long the IDF will still have to remain in Lebanon — are we talking years or months?

[Shamir] I hope the time will be short. We do not want it to last much beyond a reasonable and expected time period, but unfortunately I cannot set a specific, defined framework.

[Golan] The question is what we do in the meantime. Minister Ari'el Sharon claims to have demanded 29 times already — by his count — that a government debate on Lebanon be held. Why is such a debate not being held?

[Shamir] The government holds many debates on Lebanon, that perhaps may not cover all aspects of the matter in one session. Yet deliberations are being held, and there are arguments. When reports come in, the ministers ask questions and receive answers. Perhaps he means some comprehensive and exhaustive debate, which cannot be held during every meeting. Still, I believe that when we reach some crucial result, that question will no longer be topical.

[Schiffer] In light of what is happening in Lebanon, the fact that there is no government there, and that three of our men were kidnapped by the Syrians in Lebanon — why is Israel insisting its representation near Beirut stay put? What is the value of such a representation when there is in fact no contact presently with the Lebanese Government, and Lebanon announces that the representation has no diplomatic status?

[Shamir] We are interested in having representation in every neighboring country, even if that representation is not too active or useful in a certain period of time. If, today, we could introduce an Israeli representation into each of our neighboring countries, or for that matter, into all the Middle Eastern countries, we would do so gladly.

[Schiffer] So Israel has no intention of shutting down its representation in Beirut?

[Shamir] Certainly not. That representation — which to date is not called a diplomatic representation but which nonetheless exists with the Lebanese Government's permission; otherwise it would not be able to exist — maintains contacts with many Lebanese and other circles.

[Golan] Which leads us to the matter of the kidnapping of our three men from that representation. Has anything developed in this affair? Do we know what their condition is, or what the chances are for the release of these three, as well as the other captives held by Syria?

[Shamir] We are handling the matter every day, every hour. Occasionally reports come in that require confirmation and verification. On this matter, we cooperate with all sorts of international bodies. Presently, I would not like to divulge precise details, but naturally we hope to see them home soon.

[Golan] Would you say that the chance for their release has increased?

[Shamir] I would not make any public assessment.

[Schiffer] Mr Prime Minister, in fact all roads lead to Syria. Apparently it is the dominant factor with which it may be

possible to make some arrangement. Could you tell us if Israel has made efforts in the direction of finding some sort of arrangement [hesder] between Israel and Syria over the Lebanese issue? Will the IDF remain in the eastern sector opposite the Syrians until some sort of arrangement is reached with them?

[Shamir] Ever since we have been dealing with the Lebanese issue intensively, many have stated the need, the necessity, of reaching some sort of arrangement and agreement [hesder veheskem] with Syria because of its great influence on Lebanon. It is as clear as day that Syria has a great influence on that country, and has always enjoyed that.

Israel has often said it is interested in and ready to reach agreements and arrangements [heskemim ule sidurim] with Syria, but as usual, just as it is impossible to reach peace unless there are at least two who are interested in it, so it is likewise impossible to make arrangements [hesderim] unless Syria agrees. Israel's agreement [haskamata] and desire are not enough. This is how things stand at the moment.

[Golan] We recall that one of the objectives of the war in Lebanon was to expel foreign forces from it — Syria included. Are we still insisting on that?

[Shamir] This was not one of the goals of the war; it was one of the conditions in the agreement between us and Lebanon signed on 17 May, and this was a condition that was proposed by representatives of the U.S. Government. Naturally we accepted it, and clearly our interest demands that no foreign force be in Lebanon. Today, too, we are interested in that aspect, but this is not to say that there is no room — until this is achieved — for other arrangements [hesderim] that would permit our limiting our military presence in Lebanon.

[Schiffer] But, Mr Shamir, has any personal lesson been learned from this war and the way it was conducted, or everything that has to do with the national consensus that suffered a breakdown as a result of the war?

[Shamir] I can say that national consensus is a vital factor in any step of this sort that a government decides upon. Unfortunately, that factor was not fully present here — at first partly and later it was completely absent — which is most distressing. This is wrong, but I would not say the government is responsible for it.

As for personal lessons, or moral lessons — it is very easy to ask any man who did anything in his life whether he would do everything again in precisely the same way if he were given the chance to repeat it.

[Golan] But do you not fear that the next war might not be launched without a national consensus?

[Shamir] I would not present any preconditions, but I agree that everything must be done for a national consensus in every war — and I sincerely hope we will not have wars in the future at all, anyway.

[Golan] Last week, during a ceremony when the courtesy medal was awarded to MK Me'ir Shitrit, you used pretty sharp words about the myth of the leader who tramples upon others, the boss who is revered by and awes everyone — and I am quoting your remarks. Did you have Sharon in mind?

[Shamir] I did not mean Sharon or anyone specific. I really meant this kind of myth that was born in Israel some time ago, a long time ago, I would like to see disappear. I remember as a child when I first arrived in Israel, I heard much — mostly favorable remarks — about a strong man who holds a tight reign and has a firm control over his field, and sometimes in rather broad spheres, with the emphasis being not on whether or not than man was right in deed or action, but on whether he subdued all the other men around him and made them carry out his word. This is what I am against. I say that the main criterion that should be the acceptable norm regarding a man who enjoys wide authority is how right he is in his decisions, and to what extent he does the correct thing — the most correct thing. In terms of leadership, I would say that it is advisable to avoid, to the extent possible, anything that smacks of vulgarity, violence, or domination per se.

[Schiffer] With your permission, let us move on to current affairs and matters related to violence. We have been receiving daily reports on new arrests in connection with the underground activity of Jews in settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and other parts of the country. How vast is that activity, and when you personally heard about that sort of activity, were you shocked by it?

[Shamir] There is a great deal of exaggeration in reports on this painful affair. If we were to believe everything published or reported, the impression would be that there are hundreds of people involved, who were detained, arrested, and interrogated. In fact, this is a very small and limited group of people that are accused of illegal actions, which did or could do great damage to Israel and damage all the values and assets that are dear even to the men who are being charged with committing them.

[Golan] Mr Prime Minister, the names of the suspects in this affair were not made public, but various reports indicate that these are not weird marginal characters this time, but officers and commendable soldiers in the IDF, people supportive of a greater Israel. How do you think this happened, and what leads men to show such an extreme degree of fanaticism in pursuing the road of counterterrorism?

[Shamir] When the indictments are filed and the people are brought to trial, then we will know who they are, what their background is, and perhaps the men themselves will explain what led them to such thoughts and actions. It is a cause of great sorrow, but undoubtedly there is always the danger that with such a revolutionary process as the liberation of the people of Israel, freeing Eretz Yisra'el, certain individuals could be captivated by deeds involving extreme digression. After all, it is all a matter of acting within limits. Sometimes the love of Eretz Yisra'el leads to some highly exaggerated expressions harmful to that same Eretz Yisra'el. This is a very well-known phenomenon, and in many revolutionary movements in the world it is called digression.

In the annals of the communist movement in the Soviet Union, for example, there were diversions to the right or left which the Soviet Administration took a very long time to combat. This also

exists, or has existed, in very many movements in the world, and one must know how to deal with such things. It is necessary to know how to draw a distinction between the sparse, individual occurrences and the great public that does not identify with them. It is necessary to make an effort and try to persuade those around you not to follow this course, to see the damage it causes and the danger it could involve. it also takes a certain educational campaign, an act of persuasion, and of course firstly to prevent the recurrence of such deeds, which could — God forbid — harm the foundations of our very existence — since those who perpetrate such acts do not have this intention at all.

[Golan] But the years during which extraparliamentary groups acted against the law, such as in Yamit prior to the evacuation of Sinai, or those who opposed the pullback in the Sinai approaches, or the illegal settlements that were established, and the fact that there may have been a certain degree of turning a blind eye to that activity — do you not believe that this behavior led the people who are currently under arrest to believe that it is possible to do such things, and people would deliberately ignore their action?

[Shamir] It is precisely the examples you cited that prove the need for a distinction between these phenomena, which are extraparliamentary but at the same time not a contravention of the law. There are many extraparliamentary movements in the world, and there is the right to demonstrate, oppose and protest — which is an right cherished by every democratic country. However, all these movements should not transgress the bounds to which they are committed.

Furthermore, it is a well-known fact — since you mentioned the example of the evacuation of Yamit and the whole Yamit region — that in all the clashes and demonstrations that hurt us all deeply and the scars from which have not yet healed, throughout this business no terrorist acts were committed, and no IDF soldier was hurt despite the fact that many thousands were engaged in that activity. No policeman or civilian was hurt either, because the people were determined not to digress into violence. True, in demonstrations there are sometimes violations of the law, and the authorities in charge of maintaining law and order know how to react to them, but in every issue it is necessary to know the bounds and not to cross them. These bounds should be known to both the men involved in this business, and the men whose duty it is to combat them.

[Golan] Is that why you issued the call last week not to hurt your emissaries?

[Shamir] Certainly. I said one should not exploit the crime of individuals to stain a greater public of settlers, pioneers, fighters, and people who sacrifice their lives, energy, and stamina for Eretz Yisra'el.

[Golan] Has anyone exploited it?

[Shamir] I would not like to accuse anyone, but I warned the media and the political elements against trying to take advantage of it, and I am happy to note that to date, although there are attempts here and there to do so, this has not become a general trend.

[Schiffer] Various reports have been spread regarding the way these phenomena were uncovered, and people said Shamir should be lauded for ordering their arrest. With your permission, could you confirm allegations that during your term as prime minister the activity of the Shin Bet has been given momentum, or is this something that began before? We would also like to know how you made that decision, and how you issued the instruction to the head of Shin Bet to halt all activity of the underground cells?

[Shamir] It took no special decision because after all, this has been the direction of Shin Bet's activity — to prevent any illegal act that could harm the country's interests. Shin Bet did this during the previous government as well, and as everyone knows, it has scored many achievements in all the fields it has been active in. According to our law, Shin Bet is subordinate to the prime minister and is answerable to him. In certain cases it needs to obtain approval for certain steps. Because it so happened that I am the prime minister now, I was involved in this affair, can say, as an **understatement** [word in English], that it gave me no great satisfaction.

[Golan] Sir, you must be involved with the investigation and what it has come up with. Could you tell us whether, for example, the attack on the [West Bank] mayors has been cracked?

[Shamir] I cannot give you details on the investigation, nor do I know all the details, since I do not have to know all of them. I presume that when a crucial development occurs, people will report to me. At any rate, I cannot tell you about things that have thus far remained confidential.

[Golan] So we can assume, based on what you said, that so far no such development has taken place?

[Shamir] I cannot tell you anything that has not yet been reported. I have faith in Shin Bet, its consideration, and judgment.

[Schiffer] Another aspect of the security activity you are involved in is that of preventing terrorism. Recently we witnessed an attempt by terrorists to hijack a bus with passengers, and then we saw an affair that has not yet been solved about the fate of two terrorists who were on that bus. Could you explain the government's current policy on a terrorist who comes to attack Israel? Whatever happens, will he never emerge alive from that incident, or does Israel continue to observe the rule that when a terrorist is captured he has certain rights?

[Shamir] This is not a policy, and furthermore there is no question here of a policy. This is a question of law and justice, and there is no need for any special government decision. The government operates by the law.

[Golan] That affair, Sir, also has a journalistic aspect. The newspaper *HADASHOT* was closed after publishing a report on the establishment of the inquiry commission to investigate the way the terrorists on the bus died. Do you justify the step taken by Defense Minister Arens on this?

[Shamir] I certainly do. I think his reaction was right and correct. There is censorship, and it is there to be adhered to and observed.

If a newspaper questions its ruling, it has a way to do so, not by deciding for itself.

[Golan] But was the closing of the newspaper, for the first time in the history of the state, not a bit too harsh?

[Shamir] I do not think that in this case the step was too harsh. I think it was accepted with understanding even by the media itself.

[Golan] But about the investigation itself, do you already know how the terrorists died?

[Shamir] The investigation has not ended and there are no conclusions yet.

[Golán] Charges have also been made that the investigation is being carried out more or less exclusively within the defense establishment, and so some have argued that it will not be sufficient. What do you think?

[Shamir] I Think we can fully trust the men carrying out the investigation.

[Schiffer] And now let us move from security to foreign matters. Mr Prime Minister, perhaps we should start with Israeli-U.S. relations. You visited the United States this year, and after that there was talk about strategic cooperation and various agreements the two countries will sign. In effect, what remains from all those agreements [sikumim], and is there any strategic cooperation today between Israel and the United States?

[Shamir] I can say with full confidence that everything agreed upon during that visit by myself and the U.S. defense minister last November is being implemented.

[Schiffer] Can you be more specific?

[Shamir] In fact, agreement was reached [huskam] on three fundamental things: Strategic cooperation in the Middle East between Israel and the United States; raising the level of aid Israel receives from the United States, and improving its terms; and reaching an agreement [heskem] on a free-trade zone. These were the three main things.

There were other things as well, and they are being taken care of. All the issues were given a timetable, and to date that timetable is being adhered to as agreed.

[Golan] What kind of strategic cooperation do we have with the United States?

[Shamir] Presently the matter is in the stages of deliberation and consultation. This is a stage that must take a certain period of time — as decided upon. Up to now that time framework has been observed, with the deliberations scheduled to be concluded in certain practical resolutions. If necessary, and if possible, all this will be made public.

[Golan] Mr Shamir, how do you expect to pursue the peace process, which appears to have been bogged down. The Americans talk about this often. Do you, for instance, envision a way of making progress in, say, the autonomy talks? Do you still adhere to the autonomy plan?

[Shamir] Certainly. Israel adheres to the Camp David accords, which it signed, and to which it is bound. In our talks, deliberations, and contacts with the U.S. Government, we emphasize this periodically, and emphasize that as cosignatories to the Camp David agreements, the Americans must take action together with us to have them implemented in the field. The autonomy negotiations were not cut off by us, but by the Egyptians, who after the attempt on As-Sadat's life, appended to them a condition that was never agreed upon during his lifetime [sukam vehuskam] — namely, that they would not conduct negotiations or reach a conclusion without the participation of Jordan and the Palestinians. This was a novelty introduced after As-Sadat was removed from the arena. Perhaps this is the main obstacle to resuming the autonomy talks.

It seems to me that all Arab elements — and particularly the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el — nowadays have only themselves to thank, since the decision they made to halt the talks has caused them great damage. Had they persisted in the talks, we might today have already been close to the stage foreseen in the Camp David accords on the establishment of autonomy, its existence, and negotiations with the autonomy authorities on the permanent status of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Thus, because of the postponement and the delay, much time has been lost and things have not progressed — not due to any fault of ours.

[Golan] So you are saying, Mr Prime Minister, that on our part we will not endorse any compromise on this in order to possibly warm up the cold peace with Egypt?

[Shamir] We are prepared to undertake anything that could advance peace, if it is in line with everything agreed upon [huskam vesukam] in the Camp David accords — which, as everyone knows, are after all a compromise, they do not constitute the ideal document Israel longed for. This is a compromise agreement reached out of consideration for the other party's positions. Israel is also prepared for any move that will not harm its interests.

[Schiffer] You are talking about Egypt: On the anniversary of the peace agreement with Egypt you sent a letter to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, which he did not even answer.

[Shamir] Well, this is one example of the difficulties that have developed in relations with Egypt since the assassination of As-Sadat. I can recount other incidents, but there is no point in doing so, since we are not interested in making the situation worse, but are interested in making it better and warmer. I still hope that since Egypt claims — from its official representatives — that it is faithful to the peace treaty, and that it adheres to the peace — and we also know that the great masses of the Egyptian people desire peace with Israel — I still hope the tactics that prevent peace from being extended and deepened will eventually change, and the Egyptians will change their ways.

[Golan] These phenomena of Egypt's acting against the peace with Israel, do they strengthen your assessment that Israel should

not have made such concessions in agreeing to sign a peace treaty with Egypt, according to which it returned the Sinai and everything in it?

[Shamir] There is no sense in arguing over spilled milk.

[Golan] Do you see this as spilled milk?

[Shamir] Any concession is spilled milk. However, every concession has a definite purpose. The situation today is clear, and we must get the best out of it we can. Israel's interest is to deepen, extend, stabilize, and perpetuate the peace between us and Egypt. There is no doubt about this. I was never against peace with Egypt, just as I am not against peace with any other country, and I believe this process has begun and is ongoing. However, the debate, the confrontation, the differences of opinion are about the conditions of peace, not only with Egypt but also with other Arab countries, which more and more are coming to the conclusion that the military option does not exist, that Israel's existence is a fact, and under what conditions the problem falls. And this is where Israel must stand on those conditions which will allow its existence in security and peace.

[Schiffer] Mr Shamir, on the subject of peace with Egypt: You often mention As-Sadat and the events following his assassination. Are you actually saying that the peace was dependent on one person?

[Shamir] As-Sadat was one of the initiators of this peace. He was one of the persons who masterminded it. It was well known in those days that among his closest associates there were those who were against the peace, but they surrendered to him and accepted his decisions. Either he convinced them, or he forced his opinions on them. After his disappearance, it is clear that there is some weakening in the determination to continue this project, whose path is naturally very difficult. I believe we will never achieve peace and a solution to the Israeli-Arab conflict by one act, one sweeping action. This is a process with ups and downs, a long process that also has regressions. There is progress, and there is regression. Perhaps today we are in a stage of regression that must be overcome. However, this is how things must be seen.

[Schiffer] There is a possibility that Yasir 'Arafat will move his headquarters to Cairo, and the question is whether Israel too should not perhaps consider the signs coming from 'Arafat and his aids, who ask to talk with Israel, who say they are willing to negotiate with Israel?

[Shamir] I sincerely hope that the Egyptians will reject 'Arafat's idea to move his headquarters to Egypt. He said unequivocally that the purpose of his suggestion is not only to gain a new stronghold to replace the base he had in Lebanon, but that he wants to place his headquarters in Egypt to bring Egypt away from the Camp David accords and away from peace.

And if a man, the head of a terrorist organization, says explicitly that his purpose is to put an end to the peace between Israel and Egypt, how can one treat with any seriousness his talk about some kind of contact with Israel. By the way, he never said he means peace with the State of Israel. There is no sense in talking and negotiating with people and organizations of this kind.

[Schiffer] But you would not say, Mr Prime Minister, that in a formal sense the Egyptians are not fulfilling the peace treaty, including its military clauses?

[Shamir] I do not say this. There are some violations, and they also accuse us of violations.....

[Schiffer] Serious violations?

[Shamir] I would not define these things exactly. As is well known, there is an international force in the Sinai that is doing a very good job, and its duty is to watch and observe, and prevent violations from any side. We count on this international force, which is doing a very good job.

[Golan] Mr Shamir, what has happened to Israel's foreign relations with African countries? There were many promises and much talk by political circles that following Zaire and Liberia, there would be other countries, but so far these promises have remained with the newspapers?

[Shamir] You probably do not ignore the fact that Zaire and Liberia are achievements of the past year. There are ongoing contacts and ties with many countries in Africa and Asia. There are quite a few countries with which ties are very close, but with which we have not yet achieved normal diplomatic relations, due to various obstacles. We are combatting elements that place extremely difficult obstacles in our path every day....

[Golan] So you do not see a breakthrough in the near future?

[Shamir] There is no breakthrough. However, I hope we are achieving progress. By the way, if we are talking about the obstacles in our path to developing ties with African countries, I must say on this occasion that untimely publicity in the media is also an obstacle, since these countries are very interested in keeping the relations secret before they are officially published. This too is an obstacle, but I hope that in the near future we will be able to announce more achievements.

[Schiffer] If we return to foreign relations with various countries in the world, one issues is our arms sales to various countries, and also to totalitarian and dictatorship regimes. It looks as though we are not too particular in our choice of clients, is this not true?

[Shamir] Let us say that in the field of foreign relations in general, it seems to me that we have made a very great improvement. The state of relations with the United States is, by their own defintion, a state of friendship and mutual understanding, that Israel has never had in the past with such depth and seriousness. In relation to other countries, I believe we were able to improve — despite the existing differences of opinion — Israel's relations with European, Latin American, and other countries.

With respect to the arms sale, foreign policy is only one factor in this issue. Israel, as a country that faces grave secruity problems, must have a serious and efficient military industry, well-developed and progressive. In order to have this industry it must export and sell these products, since no serious industry can exist only by supplying its products to the IDF.

[Schiffer] And is it not important who the dictator is who uses them?

[Shamir] It is important. We make the selection, and there are various considerations and checks. There are also accepted norms in the international arms market, and we study these norms. And sometimes we think that we do not have to be better or more strict than many democratic countries which are considered the most enlightened in the Western world. I do not think that on this issue Israel has to be ashamed before any country in the world, about its considerations and steps in this special field.

[Schiffer] Mr Shamir, to end this interview, we ask to hear your greetings to the nation on Independence Day.

[Shamir] I would like to congratulate the people of Israel on this year, the 37th starting today. I hope it and future years will possess more peace and fewer wars, more unity and less debate, more economic growth and fewer economic and social problems. I would like to wish the IDF soldiers a year in which they will completely succeed in all missions given to them, but that they will return from these missions safe and sound to their bases and homes. I would like to wish that our prisoners, wherever they are, and those of them who are missing in action, will quickly return home to the bosom of their families. I wish for all of us that in the coming years we will progress down the path of immigration, mass immigration of Jews from the West and East, and that we will know how to absorb them without being hurt, with growth and prosperity. And, to all of us I wish, of course, a happy holiday.

Peres Says Alignment Opposes Defense Cuts

TA060931 Tel Aviv DAVAR In Hebrew 6 May 84 p 2

[Text] An Alignment government would make no cuts in the defense budget. This was said by Alignment's candidate for the premiership, Shim'on Peres. The defense budget is not a function of the size of the country, but rather a function of the danger facing it. Peres said that if Israel becomes militarily weaker, the chances for peace decrease and chances of war increase. Shim'on Peres made these remarks in a seminar at Bet Berl [Labor Party affiliated college].

Independent Candidates Enter Elections Race

MK Druckman

TA040918 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 May 84 p 2

[Text] Matzad, the party of Rabbi Hayim Druckman, failed to reach agreement yesterday with the National Religious Party [NRP] and decided to set up its own election campaign staff.

The decision was taken by the party's council. The meeting was attended by Education Minister Zvulun Hammer of the NRP's youth faction and Refa'el Ben-Natan, of Interior Minister Yosef Burg's Lamifneh faction.

The main point of contention was not the make-up of the Knesset list, but Matzad's insistence that the party's leadership include a number of rabbis and scholars in addition to its Knesset faction. The NRP factions are opposed to such a forum, which would also decide on the party's ministers. The idea of a "spiritual leadership" was part of the recent plan put forward by Chief Rabbi Avraham Shapira.

Sephardi Movement

TA061430 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 6 May 84

[Text] The SHAS Movement [Sephardis Observant of the Torah] will run for the Knesset on an independent list. Our correspondent Mikha'el Nir has learned that the SHAS leaders met today with Rabbi Ovadya Yosef and he decided in favor of running independently. There have been reports in recent weeks regarding the possibility that SHAS may form some sort of partnership with other religious movements.

TNT Letter Threatens Austrian Leaders

TA071532 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Foreign correspondents in Vienna have received a letter that demands the Austrian authorities halt their anti-Israel policy. The letter was sent under the name of the Terror Against Terror [TNT] organization, from Israel. The letter is not signed, but the name of the organization appears in the letterhead. It says that former Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky has betrayed the Jews, and he is the main person responsible for the policy taken by his followers. The writers say they will not sit quietly while Kreisky and his follower attempt to open the gates of Europe to the Arabs, and will not pity the pro-Arab circles among the Austrian leadership.

Cabinet Discusses Underground, POW's in Syria

TA080907 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] This morning, the Cabinet heard a report about the discovery of the underground in Judaea and Samaria and on the situation of the prisoners held by Syria. Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that the debate was held within the framework of the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs.

Tamir Reviews POW, MIA Situation

TA060852 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0505 GMT 6 May 84

[Interview by military correspondent Doron Rosenblum with Shmu'el Tamir, former justice minister and the Defense Ministry's appointee to head the team handling the affairs of the missing-in-action and POW's; date and place not given — recorded]

[Text] [Rosenblum] Mr Tamir, what do we know about the condition of the three Israelis recently captured by the Syrians?

[Tamir] Right now we have no information about an International Red Cross [IRC] visit to them, as was requested, and until that happens it would be difficult to rely on other sources of information.

[Rosenblum] What about negotiations between us and the Syrians and the terrorists on the exchange of prisoners? Has any progress been made recently?

[Tamir] At this moment I cannot add anything beyond what the defense minister has already said, which is that we may be at the threshold of negotiations. With your permission, I will add no more.

[Rosenblum] What do we know about the fate of the prisoners held by the Syrians and those held by the terrorists? What sort of information has been received about them?

[Tamir] They are being held in conditions that are worse than those to be accorded to prisoners of war, and Geneva Convention regulations are not being observed.

At the same time, the reports we have recently obtained both in regard to the prisoners in Syria and those held captive by Jibril's men, are that they are in adequate physical condition, in good spirits, and that under the conditions in which they are held they are holding on fine.

[Rosenblum] Do they enjoy regular IRC visits?

[Tamir] In Syria — yes; with Jibril's men — no.

[Rosenblum] As the head of the team handling the affairs of the POW's and the MIA's, what kind of message can you deliver, in anticipation of Independence Day?

[Tamir] When remembering the soldiers who fell in all of Israel's campaigns, we also remember the IDF soldiers buried in foreign lands — Aharon Katz, Zohar Lifshitz, and Eli Kohen, the fighter — to whom we are indebted to make sure they are brought to their final place of rest in the homeland.

Tomorrow, Independence Day, we will again remember and mention the names of the IDF soldiers who are either imprisoned or missing, who are still held in the hands of the Syrians and the terrorists — Yohanan Alon, Ari'el Lieberman, Gil Vogel, Yosef Groff, Nisim Salem, Hezi Scheib, Samir As'ad, Zekharya Baumel, Yehuda Katz, and Tzvi Feldman — as well as the three civilians who were captured by the Syrians just a while ago — Nahum Nesher, 'Eran Florentin, and Shmu'el Roza.

All the people of Israel are united in identifying with them and with their families in the hope and belief that the vigorous and constant efforts to bring about their return to their country will indeed yield fruit and that we will soon have the pleasure of seeing our sons return to their motherland.

One final word to those of them who may be able to hear us: Dear brothers, the entire nation is with you. May you find strength and courage until the day of redemption comes.

Two Confess to Assassination Attempt on Arab Mayor

TA080708 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] Two members of Kibbutz Ramat Magshimim on the Golan Heights, who had been arrested in connection with the Jewish underground, confessed during their interrogation that they took part in the assassination attempt against one of the Arab mayors. One of the detainees confessed to having planted the explosives, and his friend confessed to having assisted in this action and knowing about it. Our correspondent Gabi Zohar points out that the report about the arrest of the two shocked many inhabitants in the Golan Heights.

Our correspondent on police affairs Shlomo Raz notes that one of the suspects reconstructed the assassination attempts against the mayors of Ramallah and Al-Birah last night. Our correspondent points out that the investigators had as early as 2 days ago toured the scene with another suspect and learned about the routes the assassins used to arrive at and flee from the scene. The breakthrough was made at the end of last week after a prominent figure in the Jewish settlements began cooperating with and giving details to his interrogators. At the time, intelligence data had connected the man to the assas

UN Secretary General To Visit in June

TA041845 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 4 May 84

[Text] UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar is to visit Israel at the beginning of next month. UN sources say the visit is part of a fact-finding mission to the Middle East and the secretary general will be visiting a number of Arab states as well.

Navon To Visit France, Meet Mitterrand 1 June

TA041112 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 4 May 84 p 2

["Exclusive" report from Paris by Gid'on Kuts]

[Text] The details on the expected visit of former president Yitzhaq Navon to Paris at the end of the month were made public yesterday.

Navon will meet French President Francois Mitterrand on 1 June. He will arrive in Paris a day earlier, 30 May, and participate in the "Jerusalem Day" events being held by the local Zionist movement. He will also be a central speaker in an assembly conducted by the Jewish radio, in which important French politicians will also speak.

Navon will also meet with Lionel Jospin, Socialist Party secretary general and other socialist leaders. On his last day in France, 4 June, Navon will be a guest of the Marseille mayor and Gaston Defferre, interior minister .

Navon's visit is causing much curiousity in Paris political circles, and many expressed the desire to meet him. This is despite the fact that the Israeli Foreign Ministry refused to organize his official visit.

Ceausescu Condemns Anti-Semitic Publications

TA061130 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 6 May 84

[Text] Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu strongly condemned the latest anti-Semitic publications in Romania, and announced that the Romanian Communist Party has already penalized those responsible for publishing them. He said this at a meeting with the chief rabbi for the Romanian Jewish congregation, Rabbi Moshe Rozen, in which the president promised Rabbi Rozen that such cases would not recur.

[Ebgin Rozen recording] The president promised me fully that such things would not recur, and that every measure would be taken to prevent such incidences as they conflict with the government's line, which is one of friendship and amity among all citizens irrespective of race, religion, or nationality. [end recording]

Rabbi Rozen told our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh that he now expects the Romanian attorney general to announce that criminal charges have been filed against those who published the anti-Semitic literature.

Orders Confiscation

TA061132 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 6 May 84

[Text] The Romanian president has ordered the confiscation of all antisemitic publications that have recently appeared in his country, and those responsible for publishing them have been punished. Mr Ceausescu reported this to the chief rabbi of Romania, who had complained to him about these publications. The Romanian chief rabbi told our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh that he had requested President Ceausescu's intervention in this matter after the Romanian deputy premier had refused to intervene.

Terrorist Attack Attempts Reported Foiled

TA080915 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 8 May 84 p 1

[Report by Natan Ro'i]

[Text] Last week the IDF foiled two terrorist attempts to fire Katyushas at IDF camps in the eastern sector of Lebanon.

The first attempt occurred in the region of 'Aramta, northeast of Al-Qulay'ah. The attempt was foiled by IDF bomb disposal experts after a hunter from one of the villages had discovered Katyushas on a hill north of (Jabal Asfi) in the central sector, which were aimed at an IDF camp in the region.

In the second incident, an IDF patrol discovered a pair of Katyushas in the small valley [Biqa' Haqetana] region, that were supposed to be operated late at night.

In this context, it has been learned that senior sources in the region are leveling sharp criticism at the activity of the southern army of Lebanon. They say this army is incapable of foiling hostile activity against IDF camps in the area.

Lubrani Interviewed on Lebanon Situation

TA051305 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0805 GMT 5 May 84

[Interview with Uri Lubrani, coordinator of activities in Lebanon, by Yitzhaq Ben-Ner and Yosi 'Abadi on the "In the Current Situation" program 4 May; place not given — recorded]

[Text] ['Abadi] The first issue we will discuss today is the fate of the three members of the Israeli representation in Lebanon who were kidnapped by the Syrians. Our guest in the studio is Uri Lubrani, the coordinator of activities in Lebanon and our question is: What do we know about their condition today?

[Lubrani] We know they were defined as prisoners and therefore the Geneva Convention limitations surely apply to them. This should be welcomed of course. However, I cannot say any more since we hope that the International Red Cross representatives will visit them and then we will hear about their condition.

['Abadi] They were members of the Israeli mission. What is their status in Lebanon? What was their purpose in Lebanon?

[Lubrani] Israel has a liaison office related to the Lebanese Army. Israelis are active in this office. The three were technicians ['ovdim techniyim] in this office who were on leave, took a trip and got lost on their way. This is a human error, and it is difficult to elaborate since we do not have any more details.

[Ben-Nur] Mr Lubrani, the Lebanese, as reported in the media, were the ones who turned the three in to the Syrains and supported the Syrian announcements, claiming that our mission in Lebanon is not diplomatic, that it is restricted. Is this fact a faithful rendition of reality?

[Lubrani] First, these people were in Lebanon with the knowledge and approval, as well as the protection, of the Lebanese Government. There is no doubt about this. They did not sneak into Lebanon, nor did they go there without the approval or agreement of the Lebanese Government. It is true that one of the versions says the soldiers, at a roadblock at which the three arrived, handed them over to the Syrians. I assume this version is correct. It is possible that when the three return and tell their story, we will hear a different version. However, we know the Lebanese Army as it is today. It is not a disciplined army; it is not a homogenous army, so it is possible that somebody at the roadblock they reached received his instrucitons from someone else.

[Ben-Ner] We have a mission in Lebanon then. The question still is whether, after the abrogation of the agreement and Lebanon's surrender to Syrian pressures, we still have someone to talk to in Lebanon.

[Lubrani] There are still many people with whom we can talk. First, there is a very large community of Lebanese who do not accept the abrogation of the agreement as a fact and are rebelling and rising up against this. These are Lebanese who have extended their hand to us and we have extended our hand to them in return.

Second, in regard to the fact that we have representatives in Lebanon today: I believe that as far as the Lebanese Government is concerned, there at least should be willingness to talk to us. We are present in a large and important part of Lebanon and the interest, ours as well, is for us to leave it one day. We are not interested in leaving this area without the appropriate arrangements, so that any government in Lebanon should have all the reasons in the world to at least maintain ties with us.

[Ben-Ner] Uri Lubrani, let us perhaps move over to the issue of Lebanon itself. If a government has indeed emerged in Lebanon, this must be a miracle there. In your opinion, will all the components — the various Christian sects, the Druze, the Shi'ites, the Sunnis — be able to cooperate with some sort of harmony in such a government and handle Lebanon's affairs?

[Lubrani] It is very difficult for me to believe this. However, anything is possible in Lebanon. What seems certain at the moment is that this government stands a very small chance of functioning for an acceptable period of time. It does not in fact function as a government yet although it convened twice I believe. Absent from it are two, very honorable, partners: The representative of the Shi'ites, Nabih Birri, and the representative of the Druze, Walid Junblatt. These are the two personages around which a large degree of the conflict inside Lebanon revolves.

[Ben-Ner] The Syrians are exerting their influence on these two now, I understand.

[Lubrani] I think so, but they probably also work on the Syrians as well. They are surely not eager to enter a government of the kind currently starting to function. I cannot see Walid Junblatt beginning to serve as a tourism minister, for instance. It seems to me that nothing is really emerging now.

['Abadi] How does this lack of unity, this inability to form a government, affect the degree of Syrian influence. The Lebanese regime has completely submitted to Syrian pressures, after all.

[Lubrani] I believe that Syrian pressures also have their limits. We are not faced with the situation that Syria today wants or is capable of sending brigades into Beirut and forcing the various elements and people to have a dialogue. This is impossible. Syria may, perhaps, bring its Army into Lebanon and take over Beirut and then establish a Syrian order, but not peace. I do not think the Syrians intend to do so. They are too experienced and wise to reach such a decision. To repeat, then, Syrian pressure has its limitations.

[Ben-Ner] In hindsight and looking at the map of Lebanese factions, does it not appear that Israel, when it launched its war there 23 months ago, made a grave error by relying only on a basis of some of the Christians without seeking to balance this out with all the Christian factions and all sect leaders in Lebanon. Nabih Birri's name came to the attention of the Israeli audience and statesmen a year ago, not 2 years ago, right?

[Lubrani] I would not like to review history at all. It is correct though, that in the past we did not pay sufficient attention to factions in Lebanon other than the Christian one. It was simply a fact that it was the Christian community, in one form or another, that extended its hand to us. No other community did and we stretched out our hand to it and nurtured mutual relations with the Chirstians. Beyond this, however, the moment we understood that in order for us to properly function in Lebanon we should form ties with the other communities, we did so of course, and especially with the Druze at first. We are trying to do so with the Shi'ite community as well, of course.

[Ben-Ner] Is there a chance for this?

[Lubrani] I am an optimist by nature, and just like facts already exist concerning the Druze, I believe that there is a chance also regarding the Shi'ites. Let me explain this. The Druze community has an authoritative, powerful leadership in regard to the Shi'ite community, in which we notice many splits, and it is difficult to talk about one leadership which represents the Shi'ite community. There is one movement, prominent for its leadership inside the community and this is the Al-'Amal, but it is not the only one. It does not have unique influence in the community, and therefore it is necessary to talk with a few leaders and not one. It is not as simple as it relatively is with the other communities.

Settlement Council Regrets Herzog Remarks

TA071159 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea and Samaria expressed regret about the president's remarks in his message to the nation on Independence Day. The council says the president used terms tantamount to handing down a court ruling on the detainees against whom even a charge sheet has not yet been submitted. It is especially deplorable, the council says, that this was done on Independence Day, which symbolizes the unity of all ideological camps of the people.

Yesterday the president sharply condemned the underground's organization, calling it an act of betrayal. He said the incidents occurring lately, which are the result of insanity of irresponsible and insane people, could have brought a disaster upon the Israeli people, on the State of Israel and on the Zionist creation. Such acts of betrayal are the ones that endanger the independence we are celebrating today, the president said.

Commentary Attacks Gush Emunim Settlers

TA041140 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 4 May 84 pp 15, 16

[Dani Rubinstein commentary: "The Settlers' Boomerang"]

[Text] The political enemies of the Gush Emunim settlers can now be satisfied. The battle against the settlement movement is being fought by others, mainly the settlers themselves, who are busy equivocating and helping put the collective blame on themselves.

We are talking about the apprehension of the suspects in the attempt to blow up the Arab buses in East Jerusalem. It is logical to assume that the settlers in Qiryat Arba', or the body called the Council of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, would have stood up as one man to denounce in strong terms those who tried to perpetrate such a despicable mass murder. For example, they could have published a warm letter of support for the security services, and called on their members to cooperate and turn in every suspect. They could have used such sentences as "you shall purge the evil from the midst of you," and announced that if there is — God forbid — someone who is not pure residing in their communal settlements, they would drive him out. They have not done this. (Except for a few voices, such as that of Rabbi Yo'el Ben-Nun from 'Ofra, and also a few sentences from Hanan Porat).

Instead, we hear different voices. Beni Katzover of Elon More announces over the radio that there are signs of provocation by the security services in this affair. Another member of the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza Council, which meet in 'Ofra, said similar things on television about a provocation, as though the Israeli security service is a hostile organization operating against them. And in order to make things clear, the Council, in an official announcement, demanded that an investigation be launched on this issue. What issue? They demand an investigation of the security service's leaking information to MK Yosi Sarid. This is what strikes them as serious in the entire affair. Not the possibility of there being an underground, and not the fear of mass murder, but rather a secret conspiracy between the security services and Yosi Sarid. By the way, MK Sarid can be proud if he actually has such tight links with the security establishment. It has been many years since he has been "accused" of somthing like this.

And this is not all. In Qiryat Arba' people argue for hours whether the attack attempt should be denounced. In the end they decide this is unnecessary, since, as the lawyer Elyaqim Ha'etzni said, there were also arrests made in Ramat Hasharon, and only if the council there denounced the attempt would the Qiryat Arba' Council denounce it. (The facts are that the great majority of suspects arrested are members of the settlements connected with Gush Emunim, and if a few of the arrested live inside the "green line," this is generally because they have not changed their address on their identity cards; they too live in the settlements).

The settlers also decided to help their arrested friends, to help finance their legal defense (who do they have to be defended from? their security service persecutors, the police and the Israeli courts?).

In short, the settlers (to use a generalization) behave as though the rug was being pulled out from under them. It is true that their enemies are taking advantage of this. However, those who do more than anyone else are the settlers themselves, who take on themselves at least some of the blame. If anyone wanted to entangle them in a political trap, he could not have done any better than this affair. MK Ge'ula Kohen and Rabbi 'Amital from Gush 'Ezyon understood this, and in their public addresses on this issue they tried to differentiate between the main body of settlers and those who organize such criminal acts. Most of the settlements' leaders have not behaved so, and thus fell in the trap. This is no coincidence. The political road and the acts of the Gush Emunim settlers in the last few years lead to this trap, and they can hardly avoid falling into it.

The settlers (and this is again a generalization) suspect that the people responsible for the assassination attempt on the Arab mayors came from among them. (Look at the trial of Ze'ev Friedman and Moshe Rosenfeld from Qiryat Arba', who were found guilty of destroying court evidence, and who explained in their trial that they did it out of fear that solving the affair would hurt the image of Qiryat Arba'). They also fear that those who attacked and murdered Arab students in Hebron's Islamic College were their friends. And now, too, the settlers have good reason to think that perhaps some of their own men were involved in the Arab bus sabotage attempt.

The truth is that the political atmosphere in the settlements is not revolted (to say the least) by such attacks on Arabs (in any event, this was the case in the Arab mayors and the Islamic College affairs). However, why should we talk only about the settlements? It is possible to walk down a Jerusalem or Tel Aviv street and soonfind out that there are many who believe the Arabs should be punished — taught a lesson for their terrorist attacks. The real position of the settlers (and of many others in Israel) is that it is not so terrible that there was a Jew who let Bassam Ash-Shak'ah and the Hebon college "have it," and that perhaps it was even a good thing — since the Arabs must be curbed, must

be put in their right place, the Arabs "understand only this language," and other remarks to the same effect.

If a certain community believes that such attacks on Arabs are a positive thing which serves the real interest of Israel, then the way to the organization of such a group is very short. Those who think to themselves — whisper to their friends — that such attacks on Arabs help the state of Israel, are sure that the state should not "exert efforts" to find those responsible for the attacks. Moreover, in the opinion of such Israelis, the state and its authorities are simply forbidden from touching these patriots, who fight the Arabs and the PLO, and who are made to go underground due to the fact that various procedures of a democratic, constitutional state do not allow the state itself to undertake this activity.

Therefore, whenever the police, the attorney general's office, or the security services attempt to halt such wild acts, the cry about persecution, defamation, and political discrediting is immediately raised among the settlers and their supporters (see, for example, the effects of the Karp report), and the state authorities become the number one enemy, since they dare to stand in the way of the most enthusiastic supporters of the nation.

What happened in the present case is that even before those responsible for the bus sabotage attempt were found, the settlement movement was quick to show its ugly political face. In attacking the security services and the authorities who are conducting the investigation ("just like Argentina" — according to the wife of one of the suspects, said over the radio), the settlers hurry to put the blame on themselves, so their enemies can stand aside and see how the Gush Emunim veterans and the people who resisted the withdrawal from Sinai are being paid in their own coin.

Talks on Tabah Question Could Be Held in Egypt

TA060940 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 6 May 84 p 1

[Report by Refa'el Mann and Yehudit Zilberstein]

[Text] Israel has made it clear to Egypt and to the United States that it is willing to resume talks on the Tabah question soon. Israel expressed its readiness to hold the talks in Egypt (in Cairoor Alexandria) rather than Israel, to avoid a renewal of the discussion on the venue of the talks.

Egypt's reply has not yet been received, but Jerusalem doubts whether Egypt will be interested in resuming the talks before the Knesset elections. According to another assessment, Egypt is not interested in finding a quick solution to the Tabah controversy, so it will be able to present this issue as a problem whenever it suits their political interests.

Political sources in Jerusalem explained that this is not an Israeli initiative to resume the talks, but an expression of Israel's consistent position that it is always interested in the existence of negotiations with Egypt over controversial issues.

The Egyptian Consulate in Elat will today renew the navigation and anchorage lisences for Israeli vessels along the Sinai coast.

Last Thursday the manager of the Elat Marina, Avraham Tepper, handed the suspended licences to the Egyptian deputy consul, Kamal al-Bakri, after the latter announced officially that the Egyptian authorities had decided to renew the anchorage licences along the Sinai coast today.

Envoy Holds Routine Meeting With Egypt's 'Ali

TA080529 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali conferred with Moshe Sason, Israeli ambassador to Egypt, over the weekend. Our political correspondent reports that the meeting was described as periodical and routine. The two men raised subjects disputed between the two countries during the meeting. Political sources in Jerusalem believe there will not be a breakthrough in Egyptian-Israeli relations until after the elections.

ALGERIA

Pakistani Foreign Minister Meets Ibrahimi

LD051942 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 May 84

[Text] Algerian-Pakistani talks started this afternoon under the chairmanship of Dr Ahmed Talib Ibrahimi, member of the Politburo and minister of foreign affairs; and Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, his counterpart in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. During the first session, the two delegations reviewed bilateral relations, current international issues, and problems of mutual interest.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan had arrived in Algiers leading an important delegation this afternoon on a several-days' official visit at the invitation of Dr Ahmed Talib Ibrahimi, who was at hand to receive him at Boumediene Airport. During his stay in Algeria, Mr Sahabzada Yaqub Khan will hold talks with party and the government officials, and will visit a number of economic, commercial, and cultural institutions.

Ends Visit 7 May

LD071621 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] The Pakistani minister for foreign affairs has ended his visit to Algeria. He left Algiers late this morning. (Farakh Khaldi) was at the airport and he reports:

It was late this morning when Mr Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, chief of Pakistani diplomacy, left Houari Boumediene Airport following an official visit of several days to our country, a visit during which he was received by the head of state and had talks with several Algerian officials. In a brief statement just before his departure, the chief of Pakistani diplomacy stressed that viewpoints were shared on the whole range of issues discussed with Algerian officials. He spoke in particular of the creation of a joint commission which, in his own words, will be responsible for giving a specific content to bilateral relations.

DFLP's Hawatimah Meets With FLN Officials

LD071016 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Algiers 7 May (APS) — Mr Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Politburo and official in charge of the permanent secretariat of the Central Committee of the FLN, yesterday afternoon received Mr Nayif Hawatimah, the secretary-general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine at the Zaygoud Yusuf Palace.

The two sides reviewed, during the meeting, the Palestinian situation in particular and the new developments in the Arab arena in particular.

After stressing the necessity of the unity of the Palestinian ranks and putting the revolution over and above any other consideration, Mr Hawatimah expressed his belief that the experiment of the Algerian revolution is an example which should be followed.

The meeting was attended by Mr Sadek Zouaten, member of the permanent Secretariat for External Relations.

LIBYA

Heavy Shooting Reported Near Al-Qadhdhafi Barracks

NC081505 Paris AFP in English 1504 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] Paris, May 8 (AFP) — Heavy shooting broke out around the headquarters of Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in Tripoli this morning and continued into the afternoon, a diplomatic source in the Libyan capital said.

According to the source, reached from here by telephone, a commando of about 15 members was believed to have launched an attack close to the Al-'Aziziyah Barracks.

The barracks, where Colonel al-Qadhdhafi has his headquarters, are normally heavily guarded by revolutionary militia, members of the Armed Forces and armoured cars.

According to the source, the shooting had since ceased.

Vienna on Incident

AU081532 Vienna ORF Teletext in German 1525 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] Tripoli — Some 15 men today with machine guns and rockets attacked the Al-'Aziziyah Barracks in Tripoli, in which the leader of the Libyan revolution, Al-Qadhdhafi, lives. According to Western diplomats shots could be heard for several hours around Al-Qadhdhafi's headquarters. The attackers have apparently barricaded themselves in a building near the barracks. Tanks are supposed to have surrounded the building.

BBC Report

TA081528 London BBC World Service in English 1500 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] Now the reported shooting in Tripoli this morning. (Alex Kirby) in Algiers has been piecing together what happened and this is his report filed in the last few minutes:

[Begin (Kirby) recording] Diplomatic sources and foreign residents in Tripoli contacted by telephone say there were shootings in the center of the city earlier in the day. One report spoke of shell fire being heard, but that this was not necessarily significant as it is something which has happened occasionally in the past. Another source said explosions had been heard in the part of the city where the Libyan leader Al-Qadhdhafi has his headquarters in an army barracks, and said soldiers were reported at one point to have surrounded a building in the district. An eyewitness said armed men cordoned off several neighbourhoods of the city which they were apparantly searching for opponents. Some of the men were in civilian clothes, others in uniform, and they are

reported not to have been army personnel withdrawn from the people's militia and the revolutionary committee.

None of those contacted could confirm reports that the disturbances were connected with an attempt against Al-Qadhdhafi, although one diplomat said that that was the interpretation which many people would support. There have been persistent suggestions that in the aftermath of the crisis between Britain and Libya there have been disagreements within the senior Libyan leadership. Although in the view of many observers inside Libya, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's government is more likely at the moment to be threatened by economic dissatisfaction than by protests against his revolutionary policies.

The Libyan authorities announced earlier that they had arrested a group of people described as terrorists who were said to have entered the country from Tunisia. But again there are no reports which connect these arrests directly with the disturbances. [end recording]

British-Backed 'Terrorists' From Tunisia Arrested

LD080426 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] On Sunday morning, 6 May 1984, a group of 3 terrorists was arrested while trying to cross into the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyyah from Tunisia. The spot from which the infiltrationinto the Jamahiriyyah took place is called Dahr [word indistinct], situated about eight kilometers south of Ra's Jdayr along the Libyan-Tunisian border. A mobile home is in that area used by the Tunisian patrol which belongs to the Tunisian National Guard. The house is about 500 meters away from the Libyan-Tunisian border.

The Libyan police followed the footprints and discovered that they came from the above mentioned house and crossed Hafat al-Ashbakh in a north-easterly direction where they were confronted by the Libyan police. When the police tried to arrest them, they tried to escape but were chased by the police who killed one member of the gang called Ahmad Huwaf and wounded the other two. This terrorist holds a Sudanese diplomatic passport No 4250 issued on 27 April 1982 and renewed on the 10 April 1984 and during 1984 he entered Tunisia several times on this passport.

This terroristic group is from among the terroristic group protected and managed by the British Government which carried out the terroristic criminal action against the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in London. It is worth mentioning that this terrorist group which has been adopted by the British Government and other Arab states who provide it with protection and supply it with weapons and explosives, is internationally criminal and wanted by Interpol.

The arrested terrorist group has handed over a list of terrorist cells inside the Jamahiriyah and a list of the terrorist groups in Britain, the Sudan, America and certain other states.

This group was trained in acts of assassinations and sabotage in Britain, the Sudan, America and in other Arab states. This group carried a list of assassinations and acts of sabotage of popular establishments and institutions which it intended to carry out inside the Jamahiriyah.

Expelled Diplomats Reportedly Executed for 'Bungling'

PM081208 London DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 8 May 84 p 1

[Leslie Childe dispatch: "'Firing Squad' Claim"]

[Text] The Italian Foreign Ministry last night promised to investigate allegations that some of the Libyan diplomats recently expelled from London had been executed for "bungling the job."

According to well-informed sources, the Libyans were summarily executed by a firing squad shortly after arriving in their homeland.

An Italian Embassy in Tripoli has been looking after British interests in Libya since Britain severed diplomatic relations with Col al-Qadhdhafi's regime after the murder of WPC Yvone Fletcher outside the Libyan People's Bureau in St James's Square.

Libya used to be an Italian colony until it was conquered by the Allies during World War Two.

Those Libyans expelled from Britain were welcomed as heroes when they returned to Tripoli, though it was known that the group included the killer of WPC Fletcher.

At Italian Foreign Ministry official told me last night: "We are in constant contact with our embassy in Tripoli, and they have said nothing so far about these allegations."

UK Warned of Consequences of 'Crimes' Against Libyans

LD071547 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1435 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Tripoli 7 May (JANA) — The paper *AZ-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR* warns Britain of the consequences of its crimes against Libyans in Britain:

The paper *AZ-ZAHF Al-AKHDAR*, issued by the revolutionary committees in the Jamahiriyah, has emphasized that the outrages of the senile empire against the Jamahiriyah have not been restricted to laying siege to the Arab Libyan students there. No, they have gone further, to a crime as ugly as the filthy hag, which was exposed during the search of the British Embassy in Tripoli in the presence of the first councillor and the second secretary of the Italian Embassy in the Jamahiriyah.

This crime, the paper says, was the smuggling of a number of weapons and explosives without any license and without recording them in the weapons registries provided to diplomatic circles.

The paper goes on: It seems the objective of this ugly crime is clear: Flagrant British hostility to the freedom of peoples and to the Jamahiriyah as a citadel of struggle against colonialist trends in particular. The mask of falsehood has been taken off

the criminal ugly face of Britain, and cosmetic powders are no longer useful for the criminal ugliness that has gone beyond its limits.

The paper, issued by the revolutionary committees, warns Britain of the consequences of the criminal acts it is perpetrating against Arab tourists and students in British cities. It stresses that the wave of terror, repression and arrests in Britain against Arab Libyan students for no reason except their coming from a country that calls for the freedom of peoples and backs up world liberation movements, and against Libyan tourists—this frenzied campaign in the form of police harrassment, arrests and savage campaigns of torture and terror on direct orders from the British prime minister; this wave of terror will not pass peacefully.

The paper *AZ-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR* says: Making false accusations and resorting to groundless excuses against Arab Libyan students and tourists in the British courts, and taking them into custody in prisons will prompt the revolutionary committees to engage in a violent backlash against the British residing in the Jamahiriyah. So long as Arab Libyan tourists and students in Britain are not released, the consequences of any action that the revolutionary committees may take against the British in Libya will be borne by the British Government.

The paper *AZ-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR* concludes its article by saying: The revolutionary committees warn the British Government of the consequences of its flagrant crimes, and announces that treatment will be on a reciprocal basis, and tyrants always will be defeated in the end.

Further Reportage on Visit of CSSR's Strougal

More on Jallud Banquet Speech

LD072143 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 May 84

["Text" of speech by Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud at 6 May dinner banquet in honor of CSSR Prime Minister Lubomir Strougal; place not given — recorded]

[Excerpts] At the beginning I would like to welcome the comrade and dear friend Strougal, member of the Politburo, chairman of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, and prime minister, and the senior delegation accompanying him. When we receive him in the Jamahiriyah, the Libyan Arab people and revolutionary forces know Comrade Strougal as a friend of the Jamahiriyah's people and an eminent combatant against imperialism, Zionism, and reaction. We welcome you as a representative of a friendly country that is an active member of the socialist group, and we welcome you as a personal friend of the Libyan Arab people.

It was natural that our relations with the socialist countries and Czechoslovakia developed after the revolution, because this is within the framework of our revolutionary attitudes and within the framework of building our relations on progressive and socialist bases. In the light of this understanding and this attitude, the Libyan Arab people's relations with Czechoslovakia have developed in various fields. These relations were crowned by the signing of the friendship and alliance [as heard] treaty signed by the brother colonel [Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] and President Husak, which was an inevitable result of our presence in the same trench and of the development of our relations in the political, economic, and all fields.

We feel that this treaty put the relations between the two countries on the right track and that this treaty is the natural result of the development of our relations. We signed it with a belief in shouldering our responsibilities towards it and fulfilling all material and spiritual commitments that would accompany it. This visit and the prolonged discussions we held today come within this framework and within this attitude.

Comrade and dear friend, I would like you and the delegation that accompanies you to understand that at this specific time, as far as the Libyan people are concerned we are [words indistinct]. This specific time, in which the world is living through an imperialist reactionary attack, has special meanings and special dimensions. The discussions we held today have practically confirmed that this visit has come at the right time. We have found that we are talking the same language, giving matters the same analysis, and arriving at the same conclusions. This means we will adopt the same action as a result of this analysis, because the analysis — the same thinking and the same conclusions — will lead us to joint action.

Unfortunately, when we in the Jamahiriyah thought we had succeeded in ridding ourselves of the psychological defeat imposed on the Arab person, we see that imperialism and reaction [word indistinct] America are being used cheaply in Grenada to consecrate the idea that the American attack cannot be resisted. [words indistinct] the beginning of concessions in the tactical [word indistinct] and we don't know where these concessions or tactics will end. We think that we in the Arab world have succeeded in ridding ourselves of the psychological defeat because of Libya's revolutionary incitement, but we find that they want to exploit the cheap success that American imperialism achieved in Grenada to impose psychological defeat on the progressive forces of the world.

At a time when a difficult choice is imposed on the socialist world between accepting the challenge and the arms race or accepting socialist development and raising the standard of living, we find that achievements in the socialist world and the developing world are exposed to danger. They are trying to hit the achievements of the socialist world and the developing world in the same way that they try to hit the Great Al-Fatih Revolution, because if they could defeat the Great Al-Fatih Revolution they would be able to defeat the rest of the progressive positions in the world, no matter how geographically far away they are.

Since [words indistinct] the beginning of the revolution we have been combatting economic and military aggression and terrorism. Regrettably, Yasir 'Arafat has recently joined the Zionist and imperialist forces and Reagan in their terrorism against the Libyan people. He has joined the terrorist war against the Libyan people—the war of fleets and AWACS, the war of starvation, and the cheap psychological propaganda war.

Reagan and the imperialist forces have not learned their lesson. They have tried economic siege, aggression, the war of the fleets,

the war of the AWACS and the war of terrorism and they have not abided by any law [words indistinct]. All these have failed. Nowadays we see them [words indistinct] imposing a political, propaganda, terrorist, and economic siege on the Libyan people.

The Libyan people cannot be defeated. The Libyan people cannot be besieged. This is because of logical [word indistinct] reasons. [words indistinct] We might think that it is not them who will impose an economic siege on us. We might contemplate severing our economic relations with them, because this is the right course and the historic option. The Libyan people will be victorious in this. [words indistinct] The people cannot be besieged or defeated [words indistinct]. The people own a gun and RPG, so the people cannot be defeated or besieged. [words indistinct] the defeat of the Libyan people is impossible: They are trying to plow the sea and swim against history. [words indistinct] We have our pride and we value it more than anything.

Regrettably, in the past period Reagan has been trying for years to drag Western Europe into a confrontation against the Libyan people, but the democratic social forces in Europe, the workers organizations in Western Europe, and the democratic forces defeated Reagan's attempts. Unfortunately, Reagan has succeeded recently in dragging Thatcher into dragging Britain in. They fabricated a problem: the problem of the People's Bureau. This problem was arranged to create a justification for Britain to join America in its aggressive action against the Libyan people. Fabricating this silly situation, which disgraces Britain, which claims to be civilized, [words indistinct].

The world has discovered this trick, and every sensible person knows this is an arranged incident, because this is an act of terrorism against innocent citizens — against Libyan citizens. It is not surprising that Thatcher, who restricted British policy and the independence of British decisions for the benefit of America, fabricated this situation.

In fact, the capitalist world has imposed itself as the world's guardian. It has become [words indistinct]. They say you are a terrorist, and you are not a terrorist: They give certificates and distribute the certificates. Yesterday, in the days of the Italian occupation, they said our fathers and forefathers were bandits. Now they describe the revolutionaries of the Horn of Africa, the revolutionaries of SWAPO, as terrorists. They describe the Palestinian combatants as terrorists. The Irish revolutionaries who are fighting for their independence [words indistinct] are described as terrorists.

Who gave Reagan and Thatcher the right to determine which action is an act of terrorism and which is not? If anybody can be described as a terrorist, then it is Thatcher and the British Government, because they agreed to receive the leader of the worst apartheid terrorist regime in the world, Premier Botha, the prime minister of South Africa, next month. How does Britain, which claims to be against terrorism, allow itself to defy African and international public opinion and receive the prime minister of the worst apartheid terrorist state?

Yesterday she [Thatcher] received the leader of the Zionist regime in Palestine. [Words indistinct] the conspiracies, the aggression, the starvation war and terrorism against Libyan people. Syria is also exposed to aggression and conspiracy. Ethiopia is exposed to the same, and so are Cuba and Nicaragua. In fact, [words indistinct] the revolutionary regime in Libya and the Libyan people are targets — and the Arab countries and the progressive countries in the whole world, because if the Jamahiriyah's revolutionary regime is hit all the regions of the developing world would be harmed. [Words indistinct] this reactionary imperialist attack against the whole of the Arab region and the south of the continent give them hope that the two apartheid regimes will be recognized and accepted by the peoples of the region as a result of this reactionary Zionist imperialist attack.

The Lebanese masses have given the example and gave their opinion, and it will be the opinion of all the Arab masses from the Gulf to the ocean. When we accept the confrontation, we rely on ourselves, the masses of our Arab nation, and the progressive forces. We rely on our alliance with the socialist countries, with the Soviet Union at their forefront, because the Soviet Union is considered a loyal and historical friend of not only the Libyan people but also the whole Arab nation. As for Czechoslovakia, we would like to point out its role in building relations between the Arab nation and the socialist world since the time when 'Abd an-Nasir contracted the first arms sale with it and broke the Western arms monopoly.

Thosw who want to harm Libya and the Libyan people [words indistinct]. Libya is not only its people—with it there are the Arab nation, the progressive forces, the Soviet Union, the socialist countries, the democratic forces, and the peace- and freedom-loving forces. Libya is not geographically isolated. Libya is part of a comprehensive front that cannot be isolated. That is why we have confidence in ourselves and know what we are doing and what we want.

Strougal Banquet Speech

LD071938 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 May 84

["Text" of speech by CSSR Premier Lubomir Strougal at banquet in his honor held on 6 May in Tripoli — read by announcer]

[Text] Esteemed Comrade 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, esteemed Libyan friends, we meet again in the capital of your beautiful country to emphasize the principles of friendship and cooperation between our two peoples, which have been guiding us for years because they serve the two countries and at the same time contribute to understanding the situation in the world around us. Thus, we highly appreciate this meeting and the friendly welcome we traditionally are accorded.

The Czechoslovak-Libyan cooperation, based on the principles of equality, noninterference, mutual respect, and mutual interest, as well as on coordination in the field of international politics, stems from the common sources of inspiration and the historical heritage of the struggle for national independence against the forces of reaction and aggression. It is no coincidence that the graves of the Czechoslovak strugglers against fascism during World War II are found in Tobruk, in the eastern part of your country.

Today we have achieved the legacy of our ancestors and united our forces in the struggle against imperialism, Zionism, colonialism, and racism in the spirit of the friendship and cooperation treaty signed by Gustav Husak, general secretary of the Czechoslovakian Communist Party, and Comrade Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the 1 September Revolution. We are guided by the principles of this treaty and also by the directives of our (great leaders?) in our talks which aim at an open exchange of views and simultaneously widening and upgrading our cooperation.

The political conformity was reflected naturally in the economic field, where we have established a wide scope of cooperation also directed toward the future. It is worth noting that we in Czechoslovakia are proud of our important contribution to the brave industrialization of Libya, which is overcoming decades of backwardness within a few years. Therefore, we will not hesitate to contribute to the building of the defense capability of your country for the sake of protecting the achievements of the revolution which started 15 years ago.

It is clear that there are no obstacles to cooperation in the future, nor to expanding the work we started in the past which will be crowned with new successes in great development projects which deserve every admiration. It is worth recalling that we have expanded cooperation in the fields of culture, education, (?science), and health. We aspire to better understanding through better acquaintance, and in this spirit we observed the Libyan cultural days last year, during which you showed the wealth of the Jamahiriyah's traditional arts. The same objective characterized the Czechoslovak cultural days held recently in the Jamahiriyah. This field of cooperation should not be ignored in the shadow of the great objectives of political and economic cooperation.

We are meeting in a disturbed world. Almost 15 local wars are raging around us, and hundreds of millions of people are suffering from hunger, and are inadequately equipped to overcome backwardness and disease. The debts of the poor countries to the rich countries reach astronomical numbers. On top of that, there is the devastating effect of the climate disturbance — I mean the drought in Africa.

On this basis we cannot talk about the happy life on our green planet, especially at a time when the united imperialist forces are attempting to violate the military balance and threaten the world with nuclear war. They want to reach the lost positions of hegemony in the world through gunboat policy — how else could we explain the deployment of an excess of medium-range missiles in Western Europe, the invasion of Grenada, the support to the expansionist Israeli state, and the undermining of the progressive countries' stability? Let us recall, for example, Nicaragua and the attempts to dominate by force the high seas and outer space as well. For these reasons, and many others, we consider the struggle against imperialism and for peace the first priority of our age.

Czechoslovakia, with the Soviet Union and the rest of the Warsaw Pact countries, is facing the imperialist threats in central Europe. That is why we took firm measures last year to ensure the defense of the socialist community, which is threatened by the American missiles freshly deployed west of our boundries. However, we have affirmed at the same time that our joint proposals concerning the limitation and reduction of nuclear weapons on the basis of equity and equal security, which we submitted during the deliberations of Warsaw pact organs and during other international meetings and opportunities, are still valid.

Although our fate is linked to the history of the old continent, what happens in other parts of the world affects us. We will not abandon our contribution to achieving peace and justice everywhere imperialism attempts to turn back the wheel of history. Therefore we are concerned with the development of the situation in the Middle East and the threats directed at the friendly Arab countries.

The United States and Israel are pushing through the Middle East, with the use of force and pressure and military threats, their objectives characterized by a hegemonistic tendency and neocolonialist form. Their strategic cooperation progressively increases the number of bloody crimes against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. However, the United States and Israel have met with failure. Thwarting the disgraceful agreement between Lebanon and the Israeli aggressor is the best evidence of the capability of the enthusiastic national forces, and gives tidings of future victories over the imperialist Zionist attempts to impose the American peace on the region.

In our view, the just and durable peace cannot be achieved without granting the Palestinian people their inalienable national rights, including the right to return to the homeland and self-determination and to set up its independent national state. Therefore we hope that the unity of the Arab progressive forces will be consolidated (?in rejecting) the capitulative solutions, whether they are called Camp David accords or the Reagan plan, and we stand by the comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Although we have a realistic view toward current world difficulties, we believe that the cause of people's progress and socialism will be victorious in the end because it is righteous.

In this spirit we conduct our important talks regarding the future of Czechoslovak-Libyan cooperation and world peace.

In conclusion, allow me, Comrade 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, to wish the people of your country progress and prosperity, and more success to you personally and to Comrade Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution, and may the friendship between the CSSR and the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and peace and friendship between peoples, flourish.

Visits Martyrs' Memorial

LD071951 Tripoli JANA in English 1841 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Tripoli, Shaaban 7, May 7, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Lubomir Strougal, prime minister of Czechoslovakia Socialist Republic, laid wreath this morning on Al-Hani's battle martyrs memorial monument in Tripoli.

Tours Air Force School

LD071957 Tripoli JANA in English 1847 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Tripoli, Shaaban 7, May 7, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Prime Minister of Czechoslovakia Lubomir Strougal this morning paid a visit to the Air Force secondary school in Tripoli. He and his accompanying delegation toured different departments of the school where they were briefed about theoretical and practical methods adopted in it. In a word he wrote in the school's guest book Mr Strougal pointed out that the school is a symbol to the progress realized by the Libyan Arab people thanks to Great Al-Fatih Revolution. He also highly appreciated the Libyan Arab People's achievement in the field of defending its land, the Arab nation and the world peace.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Arrives

LD072027 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1740 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Tripoli, 7 May (JANA) — Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Ali Khan arrived in Tripoli this evening on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

In a statement to a JANA correspondent Ali Khan expressed his happiness and that of his delegation at visiting the Jamahiriyah, pointing out his visit to the Jamahiriyah is for the purpose of holding talks on developing and consolidating the bilateral relations of cooperation between the Jamahiriyah and Pakistan in various spheres through the ninth session of the joint Libyan Arab-Pakistani Committee. In his statement the Pakistani foreign minister lauded the developments relations between the Jamahiriyah and Pakistan are witnessing and stressed that the talks he will hold in the Jamahiriyah will be a good opportunity to advance this cooperation positively in a manner to achieve the interests of both the Libyan Arab and the Pakistani peoples.

Meets At-Turayki

LD072034 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1905 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Tripoli, 7 May (JANA) — 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, had a meeting this evening with the Pakistani foreign minister, Brother Yaqub Sahabzada.

During the meeting they studied ways of strengthening existing relations of cooperation,the development of joint companies and the provision of all means to enable them to do their job (? adequately) in the interest of the Libyan Arab and Pakistani peoples.

Islamic, Arab and international issues of mutual interest were also discussed.

TUNISIA

National Security Chief Relieved of Duties

LD081341 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] President Habib Bourgiba received this morning at the republic palace in Carthage Ridha ibn Ali, state attorney at the Court of Appeal and chairman of the committee investigating the events of 3 January, and Al-Hadi Buzayyan, state attorney at the Supreme Court, in the presence of Premier Mohamed Mzali and Al-Habib Bourgiba Jr, special adviser to the president of the republic. After the meeting, the Presidency issued the following statement:

The president of the republic and secretary general of the Socialist Destouri Party has decided to relieve Ahmed Bennour [head of the National Security Department and the Social Promotion Committee] of his government and Political Bureau tasks.

Essebsi, Moroccan Foreign Minister Leave for Athens

LD041454 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 May 84

[Text] Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi and his Moroccan counterpart, Dr Abdelouahed Belkziz left Tunisia for Athens this morning within the framework of the Arab League's efforts to end the Iraqi-Iranian conflict.

The Arab League Council decided during its emergency meeting in Baghdad on 14 March to form a committee of foreign ministers to contact various countries and to urge them to refrain from any measures that could lead to continuation of the war between Iraq and Iran. During a meeting in Tunisia on 29 March, a program of visits was prepared under which the Arab foreign ministers would visit various Arab capitals. It was within the framework of this task that Caid Essebsi and Belkziz were asked to visit Greece and Portugal.

KENYA

3 Western Ambassadors Meet on Relief Appeal

EA042333 Dar es Salaam External Service in English 0400 GMT 4 May 84

[Text] Nairobi: Three ambassadors representing 13 Western countries have called on Kenyan authorities about an earlier appeal they made for relief for a region in northeast Kenya which was a scene of an alleged massacre last February.

Kenyan officials confirmed that the Austrian, Finnish, and Irish ambassadors met the Kenyan Foreign Ministry permanent secretary, Mr Bethuel Kiplagat, but there was no immediate comment from either the ministry or the foreign embassies on what was said.

Representatives of 13 Western countries last month called on the Kenyan foreign minister, Mr Elijah Mwangale, to express concern about the food and health situation in the Wajir area, where officials have said (?57) people were killed in February when troops stepped in to halt a tribal feud between Kenyans who are ethnic Somalis. Parliamentarians from the area alleged that 300 people died and that 1,000 were missing, presumed dead.

The foreign embassies are steering clear of the massacre allegation, but say the local population needs emergency help which their countries are ready to provide. The British relief organization, OXFAM, said in London last week that Western relief agencies were being denied excess to Wajir by Kenyan authorities.

Rene Nominated for 2d Presidential Term

AB061425 Paris AFP in English 1415 GMT 6 May 84

[Text] Victoria, May 6 (AFP) — The leader of the Seychelles People's Progressive Front (SPPF), France Albert Rene, was today nominated by his party to stand for president in June for a second five-year term, the SEYCHELLES NEWS AGENCY reported here today.

Mr Rene, [word indistinct] was chosen at the SPPF Fifth National Congress as the sole candidate for the presidential elections. Announcing the nomination, SPPF Secretary General Sinon said that this showed both the party's approval of Mr Rene's performance as president over the past five years and its confidence that he would continue to lead the nation to a much better future if the people chose him for a second term.

At the start of the congress yesterday, Mr Rene warned that the next president would have to be very firm.

"These last five years have been enough time for us all to understand the need for a life of discipline, that there is no place for saboteurs in our country, and that this society works for the good of everyone, irrespective of whom they supported in the past," he said. After his nomination as presidential candidate, Mr Rene called for a greater show of unity among the people of Seychelles.

SOMALIA

Barre Comments on Foreign, Domestic Policy

EA071343 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1850 GMT 6 May 84

[Excerpts] Last night Challe Mohamed Siad Barre, SRSP general secretary and president of Somalia, delivered a significant speech on the political, economic, security, and social situation in the country at the opening of the second session of the SRSP Central Committee. Addressing himself to defense and security, Challe Siad said this had been strengthened and that the many enemies who had joined forces to harm the Somali nation had not achieved their objectives, thanks to the Somali public in general and to the courageous Armed Forces in particular.

Challe Siad said the country was faced by a difficult situation, including the international economic crisis, the cost of assistance to the liberation forces, successive attacks by the enemy on the Somali nation, the large number of refugees in the country, and internal reactionary elements assisted by the colonialists and the enemies of the Somalis, who see the difficult situation as an opportunity to divert the Somali nation from its aspirations and objectives.

Following a conspiracy of subversion against the revolution and efforts to undermine the economy, a state of uncertainty, political confusion, and idleness has been created by diverting the Somali public from their interests and making them expect foreign handouts resulting in our present situation, said Challe Siad. The president went on to say that tribalism and its wicked effects had been revived at a higher, more sophisticated, and well-planned level to be used as a political weapon to achieve certain interests — a method inherited from the colonialists and employed by reactionaries and colonialist puppets. Challe Mohamed Siad Barre pointed out that all revolutions have their ups and downs, but the march and existence of the movement depends on the capability of the leadership to endure and overcome difficulties, adding that it is incumbent upon the party and the Somali masses now to unite and to endure difficulties and to find ways and means of saving the Somali nation from the plots being hatched against it.

Turning to the international scene, Challe Siad said the Somali stance is based on the following: to strengthen the good relations Somalia has with other governments and nations; to puruse a policy of positive nonalignment; to maintain support for humanitarian causes, including peoples struggling for the right to decide their destiny and human rights; to oppose colonialism, apartheid, and international (imperialism); to strengthen the policy of peaceful coexistence among nations; and to solve problems and misunderstandings through dialogue.

Siad Barre Closes 2d Session of SRSP CC

EA072322 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] The secretary of the SRSP and president of the SDR [Somali Democratic Republic], Challe Mohamed Siad Barre this

evening officially closed the second session of the SRSP's Central Committee which took place over 3 days at the People's Hall in Mogadishu. Challe Siad, who addressed the closing session briefly, congratulated Central Committee members for systematically debating all items touching on political, economic, social, defense, and security issues. The secretary-general of the SRSP and president of the SDR proposed to the Central Committee that it accept a decision previously reached by the Political Committee to make Challe Ahmed Mohammed Farrah, minister for minerals and water resources, a member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the SRSP. This proposal was fully endorsed by the Central Committee members participating in the session. Many resolutions enhancing political, economic, social, (?health), and [words indistinct] were adopted at the second session of the Central Committee.

Radio Halgan Reports 7 Killed in Attack

EA072344 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Reports from the Khalid Bin Walid Base of the Somali National Movement [SNM] wing of the Somali opposition forces stationed near Doolow say that the movement's fighters launched an attack on the dispirited bands of Siad's loyalist forces stationed at (Bohol Sharafleh), southern Somalia. The reports say that the enemy forces suffered heavy casualties, including 7 killed and 11 wounded. The fighters of the SNM, however, returned to their bases without loss.

TANZANIA

Briefs

Iranian Ambassador Presents Credentials— In Dar es Salaam the new Iranian ambassador in the country, Mr Seyed Mohammad 'Ali Ravasani, today presented his credentials to President Nyerere at State House, Dar es Salaam. After presenting his credentials, Mr Ravasani presented a message of greetings to President Nyerere from the Iranian religious leader, Imam Khomeyni. The ceremony was also attended by the minister for foreign affairs, Ndugu Ben Mkapa, and other government officials. [Text] [Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1700 GMT 7 May 84 EA]

GHANA

Bulgarian Embassy Denies Arms Trading With RSA

AB071528 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] The Bulgarian Embassy in Accra has denied allegations published by some Western media that Bulgaria has been supplying weapons to and trading with apartheid South Africa. In a statement issued in Accra, the embassy said Bulgarian trading firms have not and do not undertake illegal trade in weapons, drugs, or any other materials with South Africa. The statement described the allegation as baseless propaganda aimed at tarnishing the image of Bulgaria which has been doing so much to help liberation movements in Africa.

Diplomatic Moves Seen as Trick by Reagan

AB072002 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 7 May 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Ghana Broadcasting Corporation news commentary recently took the view that the current diplomatic moves in southern Africa may be just a trick by the Reagan administration in the United States and the apartheid regime in South Africa to give the impression of progress on Namibia's independence to help President Reagan's re-election campaign. The following article, in *ANTI-APARTHEID NEWS*, supports this view, and suggests that after Reagan wins the elections he will permit South Africa to resume its stubborn posture all over again. The continuing diplomatic campaign being waged in southern Africa by Pretoria is being closely coordinated with the American Administration's approach to the subcontinent.

This is demonstrated by the important role played at the recent talks between South Africa and Angola in Lusaka by Chester Crocker, Reagan's assistant secretary of state for African affairs. What is particularly ominous is that the U.S. Administration, like Pretoria itself, seems to be working to bring what will just be a temporary appearence of peace to the region in preparation for the U.S. presidential primaries and the elections in November.

The present diplomatic campaign to achieve peace agreements with Angola and Mozambique, the Americans being absent in the former, follows hard on the heels of a particularly active period of aggression by South Africa and its puppet movements in both Mozambique and Angola. Operation [?Askari] in Angola, was intended to bludgeon the MPLA government into ceasing all supports for SWAPO. In Mozambique, the activities of the so-called National Resistance and the ever-present threats of Pretoria's direct involvement have been aimed at ending Frelimo's assistance to the ANC.

The United States is almost as keen as Botha's regime to see these objectives achieved. The current agreements between Pretoria and its two neighbors are intended by South Africa to end support for the liberation struggles in South Africa and Namibia. Washington is certainly willing to go along with it. The Americans are trying to present the agreements in a very good (?manner).

One U.S. journalist is said to have likened the agreement with Angola to the Camp David Accord. Reagan clearly wants to give the impression of a foreign policy success in South Africa to boost his election hopes. An illustration of the South African connection with the Reagan election campaign comes in the form of (?Swath) Spencer. Spencer was one of Reagan's top political aides during the 1980 presidential campaign and has remained a close associate. In December 1982 Spencer was hired by the South African Department of Foreign Affairs to deal with the Namibian issue in the United Sates as a lobbyist. He has now resigned from that post and is once again to help Reagan's campaign for the presidency.

Given the close link between Pretoria and Reagan and their mutual interest in the latter's re-election, it will hardly be surprising if diplomatic initiatives on Namibia, of an insincere kind, were continued right up until the presidential elections in the United States. After the elections, Reagan and Botha could return to the normal policy of open aggression, rather than the current one of covert aggression in the veneer of diplomacy. Reagan, after all, shares the outlook of the Pretoria government on southern African affairs, and now, it will appear, shares key personnel as well.

GUINEA

Military Authorities Order Reopening of Borders

AB072241 Conakry Domestic Service in French 1945 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Here now is the communique of the Military Committee for National Recovery in connection with the reopening of our borders.

The Military Committee of National Recovery [CMRN], conscious of he need to liberate the people of Guinea in their various activities, decided after its takeover of power to ensure the free movement of people and goods throughout the country by ordering the removal of interregional barriers. In pursuance of the Republic of Guinea's respect for its international, regional, and subregional commitments, the CMRN demands all provincial and regional authorities to reopen all land maritime borders. Nevertheless, considering the fact that discipline is the basis of all genuine freedom, the CMRN, while ordering the free passage at borders, calls on the civic spirit of commercial and tourist agents inviting them to comply with the compulsory gendarmerie, police, and customs formalities. To this effect, the required documents mainly concern:

1. Immigration and emigration; control of all documents: a) concerning the movement of persons; b) road traffic.

2. Commercial control; checking of import and export licenses; receipts of trade permits for the current fiscal year;commercial bills [words indistinct] on goods meant for one given system of taxation.

It is understood that once the national borders are crossed, all imports of goods and vehicles must be submitted to customs and road traffic controls. Concerning customs control, all importers and transport dealers are requested:

1. To undergo the requested verifications by presenting themselves: a) at the regional customs headquarters in the administrative regions; b) at the customs inspectorates in the provinces.

2. To comply during surprise checks by mobile customs brigades charged with the surveillance of the customs area and by the town brigades.

In any case, all these control measures are aimed, on one hand, at ensuring the security of users and to safeguard the correct imposition of taxes for the benefit of the public sector,whose responsibiliites are immense considering the heritage bequeathed by the ousted regime. This is why the CMRN invites all the control agents to display a courteous behavior and moral probity. Any defaulting commercial agent and behavior contrary to the provisions of the present communique on the part of any control agent shall be subject to very severe punishament.

French Adviser Guy Penne To Make Visit

AB071105 Paris AFP in French 0816 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Dakar, 7 May (AFP) -- Guy Penne, French President Mitterrand's adviser for African affairs, will soon visit Guinea at the head of a high-ranking French delegation, a communique broadcast on Sunday night by Radio Conakry and monitored in Dakar has announced. The communique, which was issued following the Guinean Cabinet meeting held in the Guinean capital on Sunday, did not specify the date of Mr Penne's arrival in Guinea. It indicated that he will hold talks with the Guinean authorities on cooperation between the two countries. The Guinean authorities, who have been in power since the 3 April coup, have demonstrated the desire to develop cooperation with France, specially in the industrial and educational fields, it was recalled. They asked for technical assistance from France for the latter sector.

NIGERIA

Head of State Presents Revised Budget for 1984

AB071911 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 7 May 84

[1984 budget speech by head of state Major General Muhammadu Buhari in Lagos on 7 May -- recorded]

[Text] Fellow Nigerians: This administration decided to have a comprehensive package of policy measures to revive the battered economy and undertake a review of the 1984 budget presented to the defunct National Assembly. The purpose is to reflect the realities of the present financial predicament and the priorities of the military government. Our approach is to match expenditures with resources, reduce federal and state government recurrent and capital expenditures, and cut waste. The major policy objectives of the revised 1984 budget are:

1. To arrest the decline in the economy,
2. To put the economy on a proper course of recovery and solvancy,
3. To chart the future course for economic stability and prosperity.

The following measures are therefore to be taken as a first step toward realizing these objectives:

1. Reduction in government expenditure,
2. Reduction in imports,
3. Revival of agriculture,
4. Resuscitation and streamlining of industries,
5. Stabilization of prices and incomes,
6. Intensification of the revenue drive in order to broaden the base of government,
7. Restoration of confidence in the naira.

I now present to the nation the revised budget for the rest of the 1984 fiscal year. To cast the budget in a proper perpective, I will review the economic features first.

World Economy

The basic weakness of the Nigerian economy at present is that growth emanates from the external sector. Nigeria's total trade -- imports plus exports -- as a proportion of our total income rose from 28 percent in 1970 to about 41 percent in 1981. The value of imports as a proportion of our total income also rose from 12 percent to 27 percent between 1970 and 1981. This trend is undesirable and must be revised.

Our ability to import depends on our ability to sell our products to the industrialized countries. Since we have a one-product economy dependent on oil, our economy is affected by the prospects and policies of our major trading partners. The industrialized countries have begun to show welcome signs of recovery from a long economic recession. But the tendency of these countries to import more crude oil from non-OPEC resources resulted in a drop in the volume of OPEC oil production from 31 million barrels to 17.5 million barrels per day between 1977 and 1983.

Thus, we are still vulnerable as ever to uncertainties in the oil market. The prospects for crude oil demand and the OPEC world market share are expected to remain more or less at the same level in 1984 as in 1983.

Performance of the Economy in 1983

Between 1982 and 1983, the country's total income fell from 28.5 billion naira to 27.3 billion naira, a drop of 4.4 percent. [figures as heard] The poor performance of the economy in 1983, as in the 2 previous years, were due partly to the continued depression in the oil market but largely to the gross mismanagement of the economy. The contribution of the petroleum sector to our totcal income declined from 4.4 billion in 1982 to 4.1 billion in 1983 -- a fall of 7 percent. The level of oil production fell from 1.289 million barrels per day in 1982 to 1.235 million barrels per day in 1983. The export of crude oil dropped from 1.009 to 0.935 million barrels per day during the same period. The selling price

of our crude oil was reduced from $35.50 to $30 per barrel in February 1983 in an attempt to stimulate the market.

Fellow Nigerians, as most of us know, oil export accounts for over 90 percent of our total foreign exchange earnings. The effect of a depressed world oil market on our economy is therefore a substantial reduction in our earnings. Consequently, the contribution of the manufacturing sector, dependent as it is on imported raw materials, declined from 2.359 billion in 1982 to 2.3 billion naira in 1983, a fall of 2.5 percent.

In addition to poor performance of the mining and manufacturing sectors, drought and pests affected the performance of the agricultural sector, resulting in an increased import of food and raw materials such as rice, maize, vegetable oil, palm oil, cotton, etc. Other major sectors of the economy such as construction, transportation, communication also declined by 8.4, 7.7, and 4.9 percent respectively. In the (?agricultural) sector, fiscal policy and administrative measures were applied to reduce imports. The value of imports dropped from 12.6 billion in 1982 to 9.7 billion naira in 1983. Exports fell from 8.7 billion naira to 7.6 billion naira during the same period. After taking into consideration the servicing account, the balance of payments on current account showed a deficit of 3.4 billion naira in 1983 compared with a deficit of 5.2 billion naira in 1982.

As a result of the reduction of oil price in February 1983, federally collected revenue had to be revised downward from the original estimate of 9.3 billion naira to 8.6 billion — a shortfall of 9.2 percent. When the revised figure of 8.6 billion in 1983 is compared with the actual revenue of 10.9 billion naira in 1982, a drop of 21.8 percent is observed.

Owing to the shortfall in government revenue, both the federal and state governments embarked on an unrestricted deficit budgeting which induced heavy borrowing from the banking system. In 1983 alone, the credit to the public sector by the banking system amounted to 5.293 billion naira, excluding the backlog of unpaid wages and salaries of workers and amounts owed by all the governments to the contractors and suppliers.

This administration is determined to improve our balance of payments position. Our total import bill during the first quarter of 1984 was 1.8734 billion naira, compared to 2.3142 billion naira in the same period in 1983. The currency exchange exercise completed yesterday was designed to attack trafficking in naira. This will be followed by strict punishment against all future currency offenders. Some of the measures we intend to introduce may result in short-term price rises and create shortages in some categories of goods.

In our current situation of over-dependence on imports of raw materials and consumer goods and acute shortage of exchange to import in such goods, this is not too high a price to pay if we are to achieve the necessary adjustment required to stimulate this economy.

Policies for 1984

After careful review, the following policy changes have been approved by government:

Fiscal Measures: The government has carried out a fundamental reform of the customs and excise tariff to provide effective protection for local industries, reduce the level of unemployment, and generate more revenue from the non-oil sector. The range of import duties has been reduced from between 0 and 500 percent to between 25 and 200 percent. To encourage investment, a degree of (?certainty) has been introduced in our tariff structure which has been simplified further and will remain unaltered for a minimum of 3 years. The items under Schedule 2 of the tariff which granted duty exemption to some 38 import items has been reduced to 20. Similarly, the general concessionary rate of duty, which granted zero duty to some manufacturers, has been abolished. Rates of duty of between 5 percent and 10 percent are introduced for some items previously exempted from duty and other items hitherto enjoying low rates of duty under the approved [words indistinct].

Moreover, in order to encourage investment in agriculture, increase local food production and agricultural raw materials, duties on machinery and equipment for exclusive use in agriculture are abolished. To protect local producers, duties on selected imported agricultural products have been raised. Since bread has become the cheapest staple food of our people, import duty on wheat and [words indistinct] has been reduced. Import duties on medical preparations, life-saving appliances, and medical equipment are hereby abolished. To encourage export of locally manufactured products, appropriate concessions and the modality of providing effective assistance to promote exports are being worked out.

The reform of government-owned companies and parastatals to make them profit-oriented and less dependent on the overnment for funds is under consideration.

Monetary and Banking Policy: Monetary policy in 1984 will be applied to reinforce other economic policies designed to achieve a substantial improvement in the balance of payments. This will enable the government to clear the backlog of accumulated trade debts, maintain a reasonable level of external reserves, reduce inflationary pressures on the economy, and encourage the expansion of domestic output of essential goods and services. In support of the above objectives, a generally tight monetary policy will be adopted. Accordingly, under the credit guidelines for 1984, the permissible maximum rate of credit extension by commercial and merchant banks has been reduced.

The aim is to avoid inflationary credit extension and enhance the stability of the economy. The existent stipulations regarding sectoral distribution of credit by the banks are retained if they are designed to channel more credit to the priority sectors of the economy. A simplified structure of sectoral divisions will be applied for the rest of 1984 so as to give the banks more opportunity for initiative and flexibility in their credit operations.

To encourage more savings and ensure a more efficient allocation of scarce resources, the existing interest rate structure has been adjusted. The deposit and lending rates have been raised by between 1.5 and 2 percentage points. However, the rate for lending for agricultural production will remain at the existing level to promote increased investment in agriculture. This administration attaches great importance to spreading banking facili-

ties and services to the rural communities all over the country. The ongoing rural banking program will therefore be continued with vigor.

Income Policy 1984: Although our economic difficulties persisted, we enjoyed relative industrial peace in 1983. Much of the credit for this must go to the workers, who exercised considerable restraint in the face of strident hardship. The incomes policy guidelines in 1983 were largely an extension of the measures introduced during the preceding year. However, the Productivity, Prices, and Incomes Board extended and intensified its contact with the private sector and was able not only to monitor the income policy guidelines more effectively but also to explore and provide practical solutions to the problems facing the economy.

At the inception of this administration, we expressed our determination to relieve the intolerable suffering and general deterioration in the standard of living of our people. We also undertook to adopt measures which would ensure a visible improvement in the quality of life of all Nigerians. In particular we decided to pay all arrears of wages ans salaries before the end of April 1984. I am pleased to say that this administration has fulfilled its obligation in this respect.

For the rest of the year, wages and salaries will be paid regularly. However, in our present financial predicament an increase in the existing level of wages and salaries is out of the question not only because the economy cannot afford it but also because we believe that any salary increase would worsen rather than improve the lot of the worker. The incomes policy guidelines for 1983 will therefore be retained in 1984. This administration will place emphasis on the intensification of a campaign for higher productivity in agriculture, industry, and services which will faciliatate an improvement in the standard of living of our workers.

Essential Commodities Fund: A revolving fund of 200 million naira has been established for the importation of essential commodities as a complement to the already intensified efforts of the government to ensure local production of basic food items. For the moment, government knows the activities of hoarders and the middlemen are deliberately frustrating effort to reduce prices of food and essential commodities. Drastic measures are under way to deal with these public enemies.

State Finances: The total projected revenue accruable to the federal account in 1984 is 10,195,219,726 naira. This amount will be distributed between the three tiers of government — that is federal, state, and local government — in accordance with the existing formual and revenue allocation act 1981. Financial assistance to the state governments outside statutory allocations will only be given in exceptional circumstances.

Revenue and Expenditure Estimates

I now turn to the revenue and expenditure estimates of the Federal Military Government for the fiscal year 1984:

Revenue: The estimated federally collected revenue for 1984 is expected to total 11.311 billion naira. Out of this, the sum of 0.136 billion will accrue exclusively to the Federal Government. The balance of 10.195 billion naira will be transferred to the federation account in accordance with section 149/1 of the 1979 Constitution as amended by Decree No 1 of 1984. In accordance with the provision of the Revenue Allocation Act 1981, the share of the Federal Government from the federation account will be 5.607 billion naira while the state and local governments will have 3.109 billion and 1.019 billion naira respectively. [figures as heard]

When account is taken of the independent revenue of the Federal Government, its total revised revenue estimates for 1984 will be 6.743 billion naira. In projecting the revised revenue estimates for 1984, the relevant international and domestic factors have been taken into account. In terms of oil production, the country is still limited to its quota of 1.3 million barrels per day. Every effort will be made to achieve this target.

In addition, the fight against oil smugglers has been intensified to stop further leakages and to ensure that oil incomes due to government accrue to it. Such measures taken against smugglers of petroleum products and illegal bunkerers in the last 2 months have resulted in the rapid build-up of diesel oil and premium motor spirit stocked in our storage depots around the country and at Warri and Kaduna refineires. About 60 percent of products meant for home consumption which would have been smuggled out by illegal bunkerers and other antisocial petroleum marketers has been saved. The incidence of product shortages particularly up-country has also been virtually eliminated. Furthermore, since January 1984, the importation of petroleum products — the equivalent of 110,000 barrels per day of our offshore refined crude oil — has been reduced to 40,000 barrles per day. The refined products thus saved have been sold to earn additional foreign exchange.

Revenue Collection: Collection of taxes will be intensified and sanctions against tax evasion and any malpractice will be strictly enforced. A decree will soon be promulgated to effect some amendments in our tax laws to make tax administration more effective and to reduce evasion. A review of the customs and excise and management act of 1958 will be undertaken to plug oil revenue loopholes. Customs procedure will also be streamlined. More revenue collection centers will be established for the collection of excise duties. To combat smuggling, border patrols will be intensified, surveillance groups will be established, and X-ray equipment will be installed at our ports and international airports to examine general cargoes and passengers' baggage.

Recurrent Expenditure: The recurrent expenditure of the Federal Military Government for the 1984 fiscal year amounts to 6.07 billion naira, including Consolidated Revenue Fund charges of 2.89 billion naira, which is a first charge to the Consolidated Revenue Fund. The recurrent expenditure per se, that is, personal costs and overhead costs, amounts to 3.18 billion naira, compared with the figure of 3.83 billion naira for 1983 and 3.79 billion naira in the 1984 draft estimates of the defunct civilian administration. As a result, the recurrent expenditure presents a reduction of 17 percent and 15 percent respectively over those of 1983 and the 1984 draft estimates. This reduction should not impair the effectiveness and efficiency of the Federal (?Government). All government agencies will have to carry out

personnel and management audits, maintain utmost financial prudence, and adopt cost-saving devices in the performance of their functions.

Consolidated Revenue Fund Charges: As I have indicated earlier, the Consolidated Revenue Fund charges, which are the first charge on the Consolidated Revenue Fund and an integral part of our recurrent expenditure, amounts to 2.89 billion naira for this year. The two major components of the Conslidated Revenue Fund charges are the pensions and gratuities and public debt charges. The public debt charges for 1984 amount to 2.56 billion naira, compared with the figure of 1.11 billion naira for both 1983 and in the 1984 draft budget. This shows an increase of well over 100 percent.

The minister of finance briefed the nation recently on the overall public debt as at the time this administration took over on 31 December 1983. The defunct civilian administration made no effort in various budgets to provide adequately both for the payment of the capital borrowed and the interests due on loans. Consequently, in 1983 alone, an extra payment of 600 million naira was incurred on debt services. This administration has provided adequately for the payment of our public debt charges for this year.

Maintenance of Assets: As of now, maintenance of public assets in this country is seriously neglected. In order to correct this situation, appropriate directives have been issued to all ministries and departments and parastatals to ensure proper maintenance of existing assets.

Captial Expenditure: The capital expenditure outlay for the 1984 fiscal year is 3.93 billion naira. When compared with the 1983 figure, which was 6.59 billion naira, and that of the 1984 draft estimate of 4.66 billion naira, there is a decrease of 2.66 billion naira and 0.73 billion naira, which represents 40.3 percent and 15.6 percent respectively. [figures as heard] The capital expenditure is to be financed through a combination of the recurrent surplus of 671.8 million naira, internal loans of 1.468 billion naira, and external loans of 1.795 billion naira. It is obvious that this is a very unhealthy situation but necessary corrective steps are being taken. The project review committee is already taking a hard look at various Federal Government projects The outcome of the exercise and that of the planned review committee would provide a more reliable framework for a decision on the fate of some of the projects. Overall, only projects with immediate beneficial effects of the generality of our people will be pursued.

Exchange Control: During the 1983 fiscal year, the nation's foreign exchange receipts totaled 8.45 billion naira, while the actual amount of goods and services imported into the country was 10.921 billion naira. As a result, Nigeria ended the year with an overall balance of payments deficit of 2.471 billion naira. The nation's external reserves stood at 819.4 million naira as at December 1983. In 1984 our total foreign receipts will be about 8.796 billion naira in foreign exchange. Out of this, 8 billion has been allocated for importation of goods and services and debt servicing obligations. By the end of 1984 fiscal year, our external reserve position is expected to increase to 1.21 billion naira.

Foreign exchange control measures introduced earlier in the year concerning [words indistinct], basic and business travels, medical allowances, and overseas studies will continue to apply. In addition, the percentage of net income allowed as home remittance to expatriates employed in Nigeria has been reduced from 60 percent to 25 percent. It will be recalled that 2 years ago, compulsory advance deposits for imports were introduced to eliminate excessive importation into the country and reduce the heavy pressures on the nation's external [word indistinct]. Since all [word indistinct] items of import are now put under specific import licence, the compulsory advance deposit scheme is unnecessary. It is abolished.

External Finance: Our total external indebtedness as at 31 March 1984 stood at 8.30 billion approximately. The total commitment is 17.46 billion naira, out of which 9.80 billion naira has been drawn down. Repayment total is 1.50 billion. Federal Government's total of drawings less repayments is 5.31 billion naira; the figure for the state governments is 2.98 billion naira.

In assessing our future credit-worthiness and good performance, loan servicing will constitute a vital factor. Therefore, in order to maintain this good image, Nigeria is determined to keep its total external indebtedness under strict control. Indeed, after a careful assessment of our debt servicing for a while, it has been established that, based on estimated foreign exchange receipts of about 8.796 billion naira during the 1984 fiscal year, our national external debt service ratio will be about 28.42 percent. Consequently, a total amount of not less than 2.50 billion naira for principal and interest payments will be needed annually to service our existing loans through 1984 to 1986.

Also, considering that the Central Bank of Nigeria is specifically required under its act to ensure that it holds external reserves not below 25 percent of its total demand liability at any point in time, our external debt situation requires a critical review. Negotiations with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank will be continued in earnest in the hope that a mutually satisfactory compromise on the remaining issues can be reached eventually. However, whether or not we are able to reach a complete agreement with the IMF, this country will have to rely on its own efforts and resources to improve our economic situation. Nigerians must be ready to make sacrifices. Other than very exceptional cases, no new capital projects will be embarked upon in 1984 at either federal or state goverment levels. There will be no further external borrowing by any state government. Our 1984 external borrowing program will be confined strictly to the ongoing capital projects we took over from the 1983 fiscal year.

I now wish to give some highlights of the activities and programs to be undertaken by the federal ministries and departments in key sectors of the economy during the rest of 1984.

Agriculture

Severe drought and widespread outbreak of rinderpest and mealybugs which hit the country last year caused heavy losses of crops and livestock; hence the acute shortage of food which necessitated continued importation of rice and maize. As soon as local production attains an adequate level, the importation of

staple food items will stop. A sum of 20 million naira has been allocated for emergency water supply, supplementing feeds, and the repair of agricultural tractors and machinery. In addition, state governments will be encouraged to set up farm settlements to absorb surplus labor and increase food production.

Long-term recovery measures have also been drawn up to revive the agricultural sector of the economy. The Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources, and Rural Development will evolve a strong machinery for policy formulating planning and monitoring at headquarters. Thereafter, all activities in the field will be based on the river basin development authorities which will be designated river basin and rural development authorities. These authorities will be decentralized so that each authority will cover only one state, except Lagos and Ogun states, which will share one authority. The authorities will work in close cooperation with the state ministry of agriculture.

Furthermore, the government has made far-reaching decisions on agriculture. Small-scale traditional farmers will have easier access to credit, more efficient provision of inputs, and higher producer prices. The government will consider a proposal to amend the Nigeria Enterprises Promotion Decree to enable non-Nigeria to own up to 80 percent of large farm projects. Land acquisition will be greatly simplified and credit to farming further liberalized. These measures will take effect in time for the 1985 planting season.

Petroleum

The government has allocated 327,926,023 naira to support the financing of the development projects of the NNPC [Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation]. These include exploration activities in the Chad basin, petrochemicals, liquefied natural gas, and a fourthrefinery in Port Harcourt. The foundation stone for the first phase of the petrochemical industry was laid in February 1984. About 150 million naira will be spent on gas pipelines [words indistinct]. Our petroleum policy and exploitation strategy are being reviewed so as to make it possible to maximize the impact of the petroleum industry on the economy. While we take note of the understanding by our foreign partners of our present economic circumstances, we expect them to be more responsive ot government aspirations and expectations. The policy on the activities of agents and middlemen in the oil sector will be reviewed to ensure that they do not frustrate the efforts of government at a more effective management of the oil industry.

Education

Notwithstanding our current economic crisis, the Federal Military Government is committed to the provision of good (?formal) education for the children of this country. Accordingly, about 15 percent of the total federal budget has been allocated to education. Because of peculiar circumstances of individual states, including their financial position and the diverse social problems, it is not possible for all the governments to adopt a uniform approach to the issue of funding on education at the various levels. However, the funding of education is the responsibility of the federal, state, and local governments and the parents each contributing his share in accordance with the constitutional arrangements. This administration has given serious consideration to the national open university program. Because the infrastructure to make the program succeed is either not available or inadequate, the government has decided that in the present financial situation, Nigeria cannot afford an open university program. The national open university program has therefore been suspended. The staff of the open university will be suitably redeployed. Existing universities with (?regimes) for part-time students will be encouraged to extend their programs and take in (?full) students, thus providing university education to many of those who would have wished to avail themselves of the opportunity of the open university program.

Internal Affairs

Having regard to the high level of unemployment in this country and the serious safety and security problems caused by illegal aliens in our midst, government will see to effectively mobilize and equip the immigration service. In addition [word indistinct] and joint patrols at sensitive border posts between the Armed Forces the police and the immigration service will be continued. With dedication and honesty, the impact of these measures will greatly improve the internal situation.

Over the years, our prisons have become so terribly overcrowded that they are now unable to undertake their corrective functions. Therefore, apart from extending existing prisons, the ongoing programs for construction of new prisons will be pursued to the extent that resources permit. What is more important, however, is that the legal processes should be streamlined so that persons awaiting trial do not have to waste away in prison. As of now, this category constitutes nearly 40 percent of the prison population. The possibility of introducing suspended sentences and the greater use of fines for relatively minor offenses will be given urgent consideration.

Commerce and Industry

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry will concentrate its efforts on those areas of our industrial development that are of the highest priority and immediately feasible, having regard to the financial constraints facing the nation. These are the paper mill projects at Jebba and Oku-Oboku near Calabar, the machine tool industry at Oshogbo, the fertilizer project at Port Harcourt, and the Savannah Sugar Company in [name indistinct]. The program for the industrial sector will include incentives for industry using local raw materials, continued assistance to small-scale industries, and investment promotions. With regard to the issuance of import licences, which is dependent on available foreign exchange, priority will continue to be given to raw materials, spare parts, and essential commodities. In addition, export promotion will be given special attention.

Health

To achieve the effective results, the budget allocation for hospitals has been directed at the consolidation and development of infrastructure in the existing teaching and specialist hospitals. By the same token, state and local governments will concentrate efforts on maintenance of existing hospitals, health centers, and dispensaries, providing them with adequate equipment and drugs

and environmental and preventive health measures rather than on an indiscriminate hospital building program. Priority will be given to the development of laboratories, to the manufacture of drugs and vaccines locally to facilitate self-sufficiency in these essential items.

Works and Housing

The present value of our investments on road development is more than 8 billion naira. In order to realize maximum benefit from the network of roads, the emphasis will be concentrated on rehabilitation and maintenance.

Communication

The planned objectives of the Ministry of Communication are aimed at providing efficient and reliable postal and telecommunications facilities and to continue with the policy of modernization and extension of postal and telecommunication facilities. However, due to structural deficiencies, these objectives are not being fully achieved. Consequently, this administration intends to embark on a complete overhaul of the P and T [posts and telecommunications] system.

Steel: One of the main preoccupations of this administration is to provide a solid industrial base for the future economic growth of the country. In this connection, positive steps are being taken to consolidate the integrated steel complex at Alaja and to accelerate the completion of the Ajaokuta steel plant with its associated infrastructures within the limits of available resources. The completed rolling mills in two steel complexes as well as the three inland rolling mills at Oshogbo, Jos and Kaduna will be put into greater productive operation. They will provide a substantial proportion of local requirements and, in consequence, save imports of steel products and conserve foreign exchange. Studies have begun in order to identify and articulate the economic priorities on the steel industry, notably the production of steel plates and associated products.

Power: Government is fully aware of the social and economic implications caused by the irregular performance of NEPA [Nigeria Electric Power Authority]. The authority is therefore being reorganized. Due emphasis will have to be placed on the rehabilitation of existing (?generating) capacity at power stations.

Despite our economic circumstances, this administration has made funds available for the procurement of vital spare parts which will enable NEPA to intensify its rehabilitation program. Allied to this the national grid will be strengthened and extended to cover more areas of the country. The ongoing projects at Jebba [words indistinct] will be pursued with utmost vigor so as to raise the (?future) capacity from the existing 3,000 megawatts to 5,000 megawatts. The momentum of the extension work embarked upon at Afam and the delta stations will be maintained. The program of rural electrification will be continued in order to enhance the standard of living in the countryside. Above all, this government is fully aware of the need to undertake measures which will guarantee long-term and more reliable power requirements. For this reason the plans on our long-term strategy of uninterrupted power supply will continue so that the coal power stations, other thermal stations, as well as the additional hydrostations, will be identified for future implementation.

Mining: The government will review the whole mineral sector of the economy to enable it to play a more positive role in the economy. Efforts will be made to encourage mining for the export market and also for the supply of raw materials to our local industries, particularly iron and steel, ceramic and cement industries, as well as other users of (?industrial) minerals. This will help to give a wider base to our economy in addition to creating new employment opportunities and saving foreign exchange.

Federal Capital Territory: In approving the master plan for the development of Abuja in April 1979, the previous military government directed that the city should be built within a period of 15 years. The Federal Capital Development Authority spent the first 3 years of its existence on planning projects to be implemented in Abuja. There was, therefore, every reason for this nation to have expected orderly development to take place as planned. The defunct civilian administration failed in the effort and embarked upon a mad rush to commence the movement of the seat of the Federal Government to Abuja in 1982 instead of 1986. The concept of the new federal capital was perverted and made a vehicle of corruption and massive political patronage. In order to return to the original concept and ideal for which the federal capital territory was created, this administration will adopt a program of orderly movement to our new federal capital city. The government has also approved the reorganization of both the Ministry of Federal Capital Territory and the new Federal Capital Development Authority.

Employment, Labor, and Productivity: The present high level of unemployment is a great concern to the government. Consequently, efforts will be made to strengthen the employment exchanges and encourage labor-intensive enterprises. Ultimately, we have to accept the inescapable conclusion that a conscious movement back to the land is the best means of providing employment for our people and prosperity for our country.

External Affairs: On foreign affairs, Africa will continue to be the centerpiece of Nigeria's policy. Our major emphasis will be on mutual self-help, both with respect to development and security, especially within our subregion. Thus, we will play our part to the fullest to ensure the uninterrupted growth of ECOWAS on which a large measure of our own progress depends. Developments over the past year have put strains on the Organization of African Unity which has served our continent so well over the last 2 decades. On the one hand, the organization is faced with a financial crisis of unprecedented proportions and on the other hand with seemingly intractable problems in Chad and Western Sahara. The Federal Military Government [FMG] will continue to place its good offices at the (?service) of the organization in its quest for a solution to these and other problems. The FMG will continue to give unqualified moral support to the liberation movements as well as material support within its means. We will continue to work in concert with friendly countries in the international community and through the United Nations to ensure that maximum pressure is put on South Africa to end its inhuman occupation of Namibia and to abandon its apartheid system. The FMG will develop further the bilateral

ties which exist between Nigeria and its friends and trading partners throughout the world. Every effort will be made to ensure that our vital interests will not suffer by the reduction in the number of our diplomatic missions and consular posts.

Defense: In order to enhance domestic training for members of the Armed Forces, the existing training institutions will be expanded and equipped. The new Armd Forces Univerity arising from the upgrading of the Nigerian Defense Academy will play a vital role in the training of all (?cadres) of the Armed Forces. Army training areas and ranges will be developed. The Navy technical and professional training schools, as well as other specialist training institutions, will be develped to reduce dependence on the Navy training abroad. Similarly the Nigerian Air Force training school for aircraft maintenance and the local training program will be expanded to cut down on dependence on foreign facilities in these areas.

The financial provision for defense in 1984 is designed to enhance the manufacture and assembly capacity of the defense industry cooperation. It is expected that with the completion of the ongoing expansion later this year, a reasonable proportion of the small arms requirements of the Armed Forces will be produced locally. Research will be stepped up to consolidate the steady progress toward diversifying the range of defense equipment produced in the country.

Police: This government will ensure that the priorities of the police are reordered with a view to achieving the goals expected of a viable police force, in terms of efficient performance and effectiveness and regarding the confidence of the populace. To this end, adequate provisions have been made in this year's budget to cater for barrack buildings and maintenance, for the purchase of operational equipment, for improvement of training facilities, for transport and communications, uniforms, and the enhancement of the welfare of the men.

Transportation: This administration will give priority to the development and provision of reliable and efficient transportation system by rail, road, and water to enhance an early and orderly recovery of other sectors of the economy. Available resources will (?be set aside) through proper maintenance and repair. The operations of all the parastatals in the transport sector will be restructured to make them more competitive.

Nigerian Railway Corporation: The standard gauge system will be reviewed early in the context of the report of the projects review committee. To ensure an improvement in the existing rail services, efforts will be made to improve on the availablity of rolling stock. The possibility of local manufacture of wagons will be examined. Greater attention will be given to the maintenance of the railway. The Nigerian Railway Corporation will engage in a more aggressive marketing of its services, particularly to government agencies which requires to transport good, raw materials and finished products over long distances.

Fellow Nigerians, in conclusion, let me restate that the revised budget has taken account of two facts. First, that our revenue is susceptible to economic fluctuations outside our control. Second, that the huge debt accumulated within the last 4 years will have to be serviced. We do not have much room for maneuver and have therefore adopted some tough measures. Governments had given priority to agriculture, power, petroleum, and industry. Investments in these is expected to have more immediate returns. The financial allocations depict a deliberate attempt to reorder priorities in favor of the purely economic sectors. We will ensure strict financial discipline and efficient use of resources. We are all required to make sacrifices so that our economy can be revived in the shortest possible time. We required everybody's cooperation and understanding in our task to rescue this nation from social indiscipline, economic collapse, and political chaos. May God be with us. Thank you.

NAN Reports on Exchange Activities in Bauchi

AB071258 Lagos NAN in English 1056 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Azare (Bauchi State), May 6 (NAN) — The branch manager of the Bank of the North, Azare, Mr John Umoro, said today that the just concluded currency exchange exercise would help reduce the quantity of the naira in illegal hands. In an interview with a NAN correspondent in Azare, Mr Umoru said that the exercise would also strengthen the value of the naira and discourage people from withholding money. "Another advantage of the exercise," he said, "is the acquaintance of non-bank customers with bank services," adding that he hoped that such acquaintancy would be made more permanent for increased banking activities. Mr Umoru said that the Central Bank directive to commercial banks to operate a 24-hr service from Friday, May 4, contributed immensely to meeting the deadline for the currency exchange. He said that the extended daily time of operation also enabled the commercial banks to accommodate the large number of people which came for the exchange.

Mr Umoru said that 10 cases of fake currency notes were recorded at the bank during the period, while a total of 260 receipts were issued out and 2 persons made deposits of over 5,000 naira.

At the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), Azare, about N307,000 had been exchanged at the time the NAN correspondent called. The branch manager, Alhaji Abdu Ahmed, said that the bank,which started the exchange on May 1, received a total of N321,000 for the exercise, pointing out that the branch was only opened on April 27. He told NAN that 4 cases of fake currency were recorded,while only one person was issued with receipt for N5,000. A NAN correspondent who visited the two banks in the town said the long queue associated with the exchange exercise had trickled out completely by 4 pm.

Banks To Give Priority to Salary Payments

AB071852 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] The Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN, has said that priority will be given to salary payments when normal banking services resume tomorrow. The bank's director of domestic operations, Chief Chris Nwabo, said that devoting total attention to the currency exchange was the only way of redeeming all the old notes in circulation. On the complaints that the new notes were exchanged in high denominations of 20 naira and 10 naira, Chief

Nwabo said that the CBN would issue more notes in smaller denominations of 1 naira and 50 kobo. He added that more currency notes would be released so that people could easily get change, adding that it was the right time to reintroduce the 25 kobo coin on a large scale. He reassured members of the public that the 25 kobo coin was still legal tender. The director of domestic operations advised the commercial banks to come to the Central Bank for the smaller denominations of the currency notes in coins.

Meanwhile, all commercial banks in the country are today reconciling their accounts after the currency exchange exercise. For this purpose, the banks have remained closed to the public. They will, however, resume normal banking operations tomorrow. The currency exchange exercise ended throughout the federation at midnight yesterday. And with the end of the exercise, the old naira notes have ceased to be legal tender in the country. Anybody caught transacting business with the old notes will be committing an offense and will be apprehended by law enforcement agents.

Makurdi University Closed Due to Student Boycott
AB071708 Lagos NAN in English 1632 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Makurdi, May 7 (NAN) — The Federal University of Technology, Makurdi, was today closed down indefinitely as a result of the continued boycott of lectures by the students. A statement by the academic registrar of the institution, Mr Lawrence Tsumbu, ordered the students to pack out of the campus immediately and to surrender all university property in their possession. The vice chancellor of the university, Prof Gaius Igboel, later told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) that he had advised the students to return to classes, but they refused. The president of the students' union, Mr Stephen Adejo, said that the boycott of lectures was in compliance with the directive from the headquarters of the National Association of Nigeria Students. He said that the students would return to classes only if the NANS leadership asked them to do so.

Officials of 3 Colleges Removed From Posts
AB071842 Lagos NAN in English 1646 GMT 7 May 84

[Excerpt] Enugu, May 7 (NAN) — Rectors and registrars of three Anambra government-owned institutions of higher learning have been relieved of their posts, according to a statement by the state military governor, Navy Capt Allison Madueke. They included the provost of the College of Education, Awka, Prof Benneth Ukeje; the rector of the institution of Management and Technology (IMT), Enugu, Dr Sam Chukwu; and the rector of the College of Arts, Science and Technology, Oko, Dr Lawrence Ndu. The statement released on Saturday said that the officials were removed to restore peace in the institutions. The governor directed the affected persons to hand over authority to their deputies, pending the arrival of the new appointees, and to wait for redeployment.

Dailies on NBA Decision, Governor's Removal
AB071305 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 7 May 84

[From the "Press Review"]

[Text] A recent decision by the National Executive Committee of the Nigerian Bar Association [NBA] to boycott the special military tribunal set up by the Federal Government to try political detainees is discussed by the *NIGERIAN HERALD*. The *HERALD* does not support the action and wants the NBA to reconsider its stand on the issue. The *NATIONAL CONCORD* says the Supreme Military Council took a wise decision by reassigning Captain Edet Archibong, ex-Cross River State governor. It adds that the military government has by its action demonstrated it is determined to carry the present cleaning exercise through its highest levels of government. The *CONCORD* urges the government not to relent in its war against indiscipline. Also, the *NIGERIAN TRIBUNE* focuses on the recent redeployment of the Cross River State governor by the Federal Military Government. It commends the government for taking the action.

SENEGAL

Diouf Receives Message From Egypt's Mubarak
AB071854 Dakar Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Ahmad Sidqi, director of African affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt, arrived in Dakar last Saturday afternoon. He brought a personal message from President Husni Mubarak to President Abdou Diouf and was welcomed on his arrival by Ambassador Afs Claude and by Bakar Diallo, director of political and cultural affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Sends Message to Obote on Namibia, RSA

MB072050 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 07 May 84

[Text] A message from Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the MPLA -Labor Party and of the People's Republic of Angola, was today handed over to Ugandan President Milton Obote in Kampala. The bearer of the message was Eusebio Sebastiao Jr, Angolan ambassador to Tanzania. He informed President Milton Obote of the Angolan stands on the situation in southern Africa and also on the problem of Namibia, which is illegally occupied by the Pretoria regime. Eusebio Sebastiao Jr also informed the Ugandan head of state of the incessant battles which the Angolan Armed Forces are carrying out against the UNITA counterrevolutionary gangs in the service of South Africa and imperialism.

Trial on Diamond, Currency Charges Begins

MB041630 Luanda ANGOP in French 1200 GMT 4 May 84

[Text] Luanda, 4 May (ANGOP) — In Luanda this morning, the People's Revolutionary Tribunal of Luanda Province began the trial of 123 [as received] individuals accused of illicit acts of sabotage and destabilization against the Angolan economy through a series of activities aimed at endangering the revolutionary gains of the Angolan people. According to charges, all the accused took part in criminal acts which were led from abroad, more particularly from Portugal, Belgium, and the United States, with a view to upsetting the economic foundation of the People's Republic of Angola. Not only did the accused take part in illicit trafficking in diamonds, but they were also responsible for the illegal introduction into Angola of a considerable amount of foreign money. [Words indistinct] enemies of the Angolan revolution, the prosecution underlined.

Trial Continues

MB071911 Luanda ANGOP in French 1030 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Luanda, 7 May (ANGOP) — The People's Revolutionary Tribunal of Luanda Province began this morning's session of the trial of the first 124 [as received] individuals accused of illegally smuggling diamonds and introducing foreign currency into the Angolan market. These charges were read by Lieutenant-Colonel Simeao Cafuxi, Angolan attorney general, on Friday. The trial is open to the public and presided over by Judge Adolfo Joao Pedro.

The defense is being conducted by some Angolan lawyers. We recall that among the 124 accused, 58 are Portuguese and 26 of them are being tried in absentia. Today's session will be marked by the presentation of a petition by the legal adviser of the Angolan National Diamond Company, Diamang, on the indemnization requested by the company for damages and interest which, according to the bill of indictment and the disclosures made in a round table held on the eve of the trial, are estimated at $140 million.

A source close to the tribunal disclosed that in the time provided for by law, Diamang presented the legal documents that allow it, as the main injured party, to participate directly in the trial. Thus Diamang's indemnization petition will be introduced by Manuel Rui Monteiro, its legal adviser, who represents the interests of the company and can question the accused.

Illicit Trafficking Examined

MB032030 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 3 May 84

[Station commentary: "An Implacable and Exemplary Justice"]

[Text] The destabilization of our revolutionary process continues to be the objective of the enemies of the People's Republic of Angola, who do not hesitate to resort to all kinds of activities to carry out their goals. In collusion with their internal agents, they use other perfidious methods in addition to armed aggression to upset our nation's economic foundation and cause our country's collapse.

Accordingly, the illict trafficking in diamonds, ordinarily known as kamanga, falls within this strategy. Kamanga is a method of debilitating the economy of the People's Republic of Angola, primarily through the reduction of foreign exchange which would be earned from the exploitation of this precious stone which constitutes the second greatest source of foreign exchange earnings for our country. In addition, there is illicit trafficking in foreign currency and the illegal injection into Angola of hundreds of thousands of dollars and Portuguese escudos to finance the purchase of the illegally acquired diamonds from complexly organized networks. The injections of these sums is not only aimed at replacing the Angolan kwanza in order to facilitate payments to diamond dealers and middlemen but, above all, at encouraging gradual and uncontrolled internal inflation which would devastate our national economy and result in complications which would affect it politically, economically, and socially. Hence, one can deduce the dangerous consequences that this could have on an ongoing revolution.

This is a process which had been carefully planned to cause an economic and financial breakdown, as well as the people's dissatisfaction with alarmingly high cost of living, which, combined with the intensification of the armed actions by the puppets, would create the climate to crush the revolution. However, the enemy has forgotten that today as in the past, the Angolan revolution will continue to defend itself and that such maneuvers would be neutralized and doomed to failure.

The lengthy and persistent investigation carried out by the nation's competent organizations made it crystal clear that this was an operation which involved individuals who are experienced in these illegal and counterrevolutionary practices, and was deep-rooted not only in Angola, but above all enjoyed the assistance and collusion of foreigners based in Portugal, Switzerland, and the United States.

In order to remain undetected, many of the internal reactionary agents tried to ingratitate themselves with influential individuals

in Angola and win their confidence. Thus, on the basis of promises, corruption, and hopes for an easy life, they were able to gain a cover for their wrongful actions which enabled them to remain unpunished for a period of time. Others who were less influential, but had financial backing made possible by the illegal injections of foreign capital, disguised themselves in unsuspicious professions. This is the case with the questionable representatives in Angola of foreign firms and labels [marcas], notably Portuguese citizens with no apparent aim but to establish contracts with Angolan authorities. Fortunately, today both groups are facing justice. These individuals currently total over 100 and there are strong indications that other implicated people may be detected, because the investigative work is still underway.

According to more detailed estimates, the amount of illegal trafficking conducted by these hundreds of defaulters in the last 3 years is estimated at about $100 million, which is equivalent to three million kwanzas, in addition to its side effects from the introduction of hundreds of thousands of dollars and Portuguese escudos in Angola.

Are we only dealing with simple criminals who are only interested in easy and quick money? In the neutralization of kamangists there is evidence which shows that this is not so.

Thanks mainly to the people's spirit of vigilance, routine investigations alone have revealed suspicious links between some networks of elements connected with some consulates [as heard] of the United States installed in Luanda during the colonial period.

In fact, upon examining irregularities in the transfer of some houses, a considerable quantity of U.S. official documentation was discovered, along with articles usually used for espionage, a quantity of communications equipment, and evidence of individuals being paid by the State Department, all of which was hidden away in one of the rooms.

By the way, branches of the network of [word indistinct] and businessmen are found in New Jersey and other U.S. cities and western European cities which are well-known for subversion.

Accordingly, we are dealing with a well-engineered orchestration aimed at subverting our revolutionary regime, whose daily unselfish effort contributes to the national reconstruction. In this context, the people will request, through legally constitutued organs, that justice be carried out — a fair but implacable and exemplary justice.

This illegal trafficking in diamonds and in foreign currency is significant for two reasons: It will constitute a platform for the denunciation of destabilization campaigns which have victimized our country; in addition, it is aimed at warning all those who try to divert the Angolan people from their path — the building of a society free from capitalist exploitation where every citizen will occupy the place he deserves in accordance with his honest work. Let us be vigilant.

We shall be able to destroy the counterrevolution, regardless of the form it assumes with every passing moment. The vigilance and determination of all our people is the most powerful, strongest, and safest weapon for eliminating from our society these parasites who feed on the blood and sweat of honest workers of the People's Republic of Angola. The struggle continues. Victory is certain.

LESOTHO

Foreign Minister Returns From Talks in Lusaka

MB071910 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, the Honorable E.R. Sekhonyana, returned to Maseru this afternoon after leading a two-man delegation to Lusaka, Zambia, where he held consultations yesterday with President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia. The minister was also received this morning by the prime minister of Zambia and had a working session with the foreign minister, the Honorable Professor Goma. The minister was accompanied by the deputy permanent secretary, Mr (Chaka Ntsnane).

Minister Leaves for Conference on African Problems

MB071945 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] The minister of cooperatives and rural development, the Honorable V.M. Makhele, left Lesotho for London at the weekend to attend a conference on the theme of African dilemmas, with special emphasis on the struggle for political stability and economic development, which starts today in the south of England. The course will last for 5 days, but he will remain in London to attend the specially-arranged program of electoral procedures which starts next week. He will later be joined by other government officials. While in London, he will be the guest of the United Kingdom.

MOZAMBIQUE

Information Minister on Accord With South Africa

LD071744 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] The Mozambican Government will no longer supply any military or material equipment to the African National Congress (ANC), the main black nationalist organization opposed to the South African regime. Mozambican Information Minister Mr Luis Cabaco confirmed this this morning to Radio France Internationale. On a stopover in Paris, the Mozambique minister explained at length the most important aspects of the changes brought about recently in southern Africa, and in the Mozambican policy, beginning with the domestic problem of the guerrilla group which still operates despite the terms of the Nkomati agreement. Here is Mr Cabaco speaking to Charles Lescot:

[Begin recording] [Cabaco] Prior to the Nkomati agreement,the activity of armed groups in our country received great support either in men or in military equipment from certain forces in South Africa. We hoped, and we still hope [words indistinct] immediately we will have especially in the south of the country; but in the rest of the country we have (?noticed) signs of a

reduction in their activities, but in the south of the country there is an increase in their activities, especially around the capital. It is a short-term effort that we believe is being used to transmit international [word indistinct] the idea that South Africa cannot [words indistinct] their activities.

[Lescot] Everyone now knows that in accordance with the terms of the agreement, the ANC can no longer stay in Mozambique, so what support do you intend giving to the ANC in the future?

[Cabaco] The ANC is still in Mozambique, as a political representation. It has political representation in Mozambique and refugees from South Africa have support. We receive refugees from South Africa in accordance with the international convention. We continue, as we have already reasserted, our support for action on political, diplomatic, and moral issues in the struggle against apartheid in South Africa, in all international forums [words indistinct], in the international sphere for apartheid to (?cut through) apartheid in South African society. [sentence as heard]

[Lescot] And you no longer intend to assist the ANC in material terms?

[Cabaco] No, in accordance with what has been agreed in the security accord, the two parties commit themselves to not aiding forces which are operating in each other's territory and to not being used as a base for third-party forces which may invade or carry out invasions or actions of a military nature in other countries.

[Lescot] You have recently had several contacts with French ministers, in particular a (?meeting) with the minister for cooperation. So how do you judge the aid, the support by France on a political, diplomatic, and material level?

[Cabaco] The development of cooperation by France with Mozambique and with the area in general and [words indistinct] was very important and very significant. The humanitarian and food aid given to us by France was considerable and reached us at a time when, because of the drought and other problems we had in the country, we were going through a difficult situation. I believe that cooperation is still developing and that there are many indications, compromises already, even cooperation,that needs to materialize in the near future. [sentence as heard] And I believe that if Mozambique becomes a party to Lome following the negotiations of Lome III, I think that will open up even more possibilities for a significant development in the relations between our countries. [end recording]

Soviet Ambassador Notes USSR Media Support

MB071600 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1030 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Yuriy Sepelev, Soviet ambassador to Mozambique, said in Maputo yesterday that his country's press, radio, and television will continue to render support to the efforts of the Mozambique authorities to build socialism and liquidate underdevelopment in an atmosphere of peace and stability. The Soviet diplomat was speaking at a reception which he and his country's journalists hosted on the occasion of the celebrations marking Press, Radio, and Television Day, which is taking place in the USSR today. On the occasion, Yuriy Sepelev referred to the relations of friendship and cooperation which exist between journalists and the news media of the two countries. The newspaper, *NOTICIAS*, which has reported this, says that the reception was attended by a number of Mozambican journalists.

UN Official Meets Chissano Upon Arrival

MB071920 Maputo in English to Southern Africa
1800 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] The assistant secretary general of the United Nations for political questions, Abdulrahim Farah, arrived in Maputo today to begin a working visit to Mozambique. Shorty after his arrival, Mr Farah met Mozambique's foreign minister, Joaquim Chissano. Mr Farah told the minister that he hoped to have fruitful discussions with the government so that he could bring to the attention of the international community Mozambique's priority needs in the vital sectors of its economy.

The UN official said he and the team which is accompanying him would give attention first to those areas which had been devastated by floods and drought, but added that they would also look at those areas where development assistance was needed. Mr Farah said that the UN secretary general, Perez de Cuellar, had followed with closer interest the nonaggression pact between Mozambique and South Africa. The secretary general, he said, hoped the agreement would fulfill the expectations of the Mozambican Government and the people of Mozambique. He said the United Nations hoped also that the opportunities which the agreement had created would give Mozambique the peace it needed and deserved.

Welcoming Mr Farah, Foreign Minister Chissano said the visit came at a very significant period, in which historic events were taking place in southern Africa and in Mozambique in particular. Mr Chissano said he and other government leaders would inform Mr Farah of the significance Mozambique attached to the pact with South Africa, and to other developments in the region. He said that the pact opened up perspectives for peace, but that Mozambique did not want peace just for the sake of peace. We want peace, he said, to bring many benefits to our people, to the peoples of southern Africa,and of Africa as a whole which, said Mr Chissano, would contribute to the development of all of mankind.

Rebelo Press Conference on Marking Anniversary

MB071547 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1800 GMT 6 May 84

[From the "Voice of Frelimo" program]

[Text] Comrade Jorge Rebelo, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee, has given a press conference in which he explained the meaning of the commemorations of the 20th anniversary of the beginning of the armed struggle of national liberation. The great objective of these commemorations is to eliminate armed banditry, guarantee the

fulfillment of the state central plan, and strengthen production of goods for the people's consumption and exportation. Supplementary actions, which are not part of the plan, have also been anticipated. In the framework of the defense of the fatherland, Comrade Jorge Rebelo stresses the intensification of actions aimed at the patriotic education of the citizens. Regarding this issue, Comrade Jorge Rebelo said, quote, each Mozambican must be aware that the defense of the fatherland and the revolution is not an exclusive task of the Armed Forces, but rather a task of each citizen. [no reference to closing quote as heard]

In the economic field, great importance must be given to the small projects. Specific guidelines have already been given to the provinces, so that by using local initiatives, solutions can be found for problems without turning to the central organs. The commemorations of 25th September must be a great step forward in the correct organization of production because, as stated by Comrade Jorge Rebelo, one of the party's great objectives is to become self-sufficient in food in 1985. A great selfless socialist working campaign will be launched with a view toward creating a new work attitude among Mozambicans. Referring to the activities assigned to the party, Comrade Jorge Rebelo stressed:

[Begin Rebelo recording] One of the tasks of the provincial committees is to assure the functioning of cells. We know that if the cells don't function these days, it is for concrete and objective reasons. We are not going to change this situation in a matter of days or months. Therefore, we are aware that we cannot assure the functioning of all the existing cells, and so we are going to guarantee the functioning of at least a few cells — those situated in strategic areas — and major enterprises, mainly strategic enterprises. Each province has been assigned the task of selecting the most important cells of 20 to 30 cells, and conducting a permanent inspection to guarantee that at least these cells function properly. Thus, we believe that these cells will function accordingly, and influence other cells to organize themselves. They will be like a model for other cells, so the process will move forward. Of course, it is also necessary for the district and provincial committees to be reorganized in order for the cells to function. [end recording]

These are the major points of the press conference given by Comrade Secretary Jorge Rebelo. As he said, the 25 September celebrations are part of the framework of a specific tradition that dates back to the time of the armed struggle of national liberation, that is, to celebrate important dates through greater personal involvement in the tasks that have been assigned, and fulfillment of other tasks as part of the aim of promoting that date.

Further on Press Conference

MB080515 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Jorge Rebelo, a member of the Political Bureau and the party Central Committee secretary, gave a press conference a few days ago on activities to be carried out to mark 25 September.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr Secretary, the country is combining efforts to eliminate the armed bandits. Does it mean that the priority tasks with regard to the 25 September celebrations will include the task of combating the armed bandits? If the answer is yes, how?

[Rebelo] When we say that every one must engage himself in the tasks he is charged with, it is evident that it means that whether one is a teacher, student, worker, peasant, or civil servant, he must make an effort to improve the quantity and quality of the work for which he is responsible. Our present situation defines as priority tasks during this phase the fight against armed bandits to eliminate them once and for all and an increase in production to put an end to hunger and nakedness, which are the immediate objectives for us in this country.

Accordingly, the main efforts during this period should be directed toward these objectives, and this is precisely what the Political Bureau defined in its exhortation and the two recent meetings of the Central Committtee and the People's Assembly once again underlined. The above are our two priority tasks during this period.

Now, how can this be carried out in practice? There is a need to intensify the work of patriotic education of the citizens. In more specific terms, this means that every Mozambican should be aware that the defense of the fatherland and the revolution is not an exclusive task of the Armed Forces but is a task of every citizen. In this way, every citizen must engage himself in the activities of the people's militia and people's vigilante groups, and even if he does not belong to these organizations, he should, as a citizen, be an element of vigilance. If he resides in a ward or a residential quarter, he must be watchful and vigilant, able to detect strange movements in his residential area or workplace and to report to competent authorities in order to neutralize any enemy action in the cities and the countryside. [end recording]

Rebels Kill 1, Injure 31 in Train Attack

AB041532 Paris AFP in English 1438 GMT 4 May 84

[Text] Maputo, May 4 (AFP) — At least 1 person was killed and 31 others injured when anti-government rebels ambushed a passenger train 29 km north of Maputo early yesterday, according to sources in the Central Hospital. Paulo Francisco Chambule, who is being treated for his wounds, said the track had been sabotaged, causing the locomotive to run off the rails, after which the rebels opened fire on the carriages. The train is a regular commuter service which carries workers from the towns of Manhich and Marracuene to Maputo. The attack took place shortly after it left Marracuene at (?about) 5 am. Thirty-two people were taken to hospital where one died, the sources said. It was not immediately known if there had been other fatalities. Four of the wounded were still under intensive care. On Sunday, 2 people were killed and 10 injured when a passenger bus was attacked in the same area. Responsibility for that attack was claimed by the Mozambique National Resistance (MNR).

The MNR was receiving large-scale military and logistic support from South Africa until Mozambican President Samora Machel and South African Premier Pieter Botha [word indistinct] a non-aggression treaty 7 weeks ago.

The state-controlled *NOTICIAS* newspaper said in an editorial today that the forces that supported the armed bandits had spent the period before the signing of the Nkomati pact introducing "criminals" and large quantities of arms and ammunition into Mozambique. Recent attacks have been concentrated around the capital, which is just 90 kms (55 miles) from the South African border. There have been several ambushes of buses and other vehicles and power supply lines have been brought down. In another attack yesterday, two people [words indistinct] driving on the main road from Maputo to the South African border. The driver of the car, Menete William Cossa, said he was returning to work in South Africa when 4 rebels opened fire near the village of Movene, about 80 km (50 miles) from Maputo. The Mozambique news agency reported yesterday that 37 civilians had been killed and injured when rebels attacked a convoy of trucks in the northwest Mozambican Province of Tete, 1,200 kms (750 miles) north of Maputo, on April 21.

NAMIBIA

Nujoma Statement Discusses Talks in Lusaka

MB072007 Harare Voice of Namibia in English 1900 GMT 7 May 84

[Press statement issued by SWAPO President Sam Nujoma on 4 May 1984; place not given — read by announcer]

[Text] In the past 48 hours, various news media, both in Lusaka and particularly from the Republic of South Africa, have directed some inquiries to SWAPO in order either to confirm or deny a statement issued by the office of the administrator-general in Namibia to the effect that SWAPO is to meet representatives of the so-called Multiparty Conference [MPC] in Lusaka for talks. The said statement by the South African administrator-general has been extensively and repeatedly reported by Radio RSA over the past few days or so.

The purpose of this press conference is, on the part of SWAPO, not only to correct the deliberately misleading statement emanating from the Pretoria regime on the possibility of a peaceful solution to the Namibian problem, but, above all, to reiterate SWAPO's well known and often repeated position with regard to the question of (?negotiations) with South Africa over the question of the independence of Namibia.

Firstly, who are the parties in the conflict in Namibia? The answer is clear and simple. The war now being fought is between the People's Liberation Army of Namibia, PLAN — the military wing of SWAPO — and the occupationist forces of the racist regime of South Africa. It follows, therefore, that a peaceful solution to the Namibian problem, which must first (?await) for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 435, can only be possible if the two parties in conflict — SWAPO and the racist regime of South Africa — should sign a cease-fire. In this regard, SWAPO has repeatedly stated that we are ready to talk directly to South Africa, with a view to signing a cease-fire,and, by so doing, starting the process of decolonization in Namibia through the speedy and expeditious implementation of Resolution 435, without the introduction of extraneous issues.

Secondly, SWAPO will not concern itself with the composition of the South African delegation, even if it includes as part of its delegation the puppets of the internal parties who are now referred to as the so-called MPC. Swapo will never (?debase) itself in talking to the puppets of the so-called MPC, for we have nothing to say to them. They are nothing but another Democratic Turnhalle Alliance in disguise, who are being used and manipulated by the Pretoria regime for the purpose of delaying the inevitable independence of Namibia.

SWAPO is ready to submit itself to the will of the Namibian people, both black and white, through free, fair, and democratic elections under Security Council Resolution 435, in order to bring through peaceful means the independence of Namibia. Liberation struggle, no matter the cost in human and material terms, to achieve its objective of a free and independent Namibia, and to restore our birthright in the land of our birth. [as heard]

Toivo To Join Nujoma for Lusaka RSA Talks

MB071305 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] The administrator general of South-West Africa, Dr Willie van Niekerk, says no representatives of political parties in South-West Africa will be included in the talks which may be held in Lusaka or elsewhere between the South African Government and SWAPO later this week. A spokesman for the office of the administrator general in Windhoek was reacting to reports that SWAPO was not willing to hold direct negotiations with a delegation of the South-West Africa Multiparty Conference [MPC].

The leader of SWAPO, Sam Nujoma, said at a conference in Lusaka on Friday that South African representatives and SWAPO would hold talks in the Zambian capital this week. He said the South African delegation would include the administrator general of South-West Africa. Dr van Niekerk's office in Windhoek confirmed that arrangements were being made for such talks.

Nujoma said SWAPO was not concerned with the composition of the South African delegation. However, he would not communicate with the MPC, even if representatives of the conference were present. He said SWAPO wanted to talk to South Africa about the implementation of the UN independence plan for South-West Africa.

A SWAPO spokesman, Mr Bessinger, has confirmed in Windhoek that a delegation of the party will leave for Lusaka this week to attend the talks with South Africa. The delegation, which will include the founder member of SWAPO, Mr Herman (Andimba) Toivo ja Toivo, will join SWAPO representatives led by Sam Nujoma in the Zambian capital.

A member of the Damara Council, Mr Simpson Gobs, said in reply to a question that the party would be sending a 12-man delegation to Lusaka for the talks. The Damara delegation will be led by the leader of the party, Mr Justus Garoeb, who is at present in the Zambian capital where he has had talks with SWAPO.

DR, SWANU Delegations To Attend Lusaka Talks

MB071250 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1223 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Windhoek, May 7, SAPA — A 12-man delegation of the Damara Raad and "dissidents" of the SWA National Union are to go to Lusaka for peace talks scheduled for later this week. According to a news report by the SWABC, the DR delegation's leader, Mr Justus Garoeb, is already in the Zambian capital where he had "exploratory" talks with SWAPO's Mr Sam Nujoma. The report said the SWANU dissidents would be led by former party chief and Robben Island detainee, Mr Hitjevi Gerson Veii. He would be accompanied by three other unnamed Central Committee members. Meanwhile, SWANU President Mr Moses Katjiuohgua said the delegation would not attend the summit with the approval of the SWANU Executive, but rather at the invitation of SWAPO. He said everything possible would be done to ensure that the move did not cause a split in the party.

Windhoek Source on Possible Namibia Meeting

PM061848 Paris LE MONDE in French 4 May 84 p 6

[Michel Bole-Richard dispatch: "Negotiations To Be Opened in Lusaka Between South Africans, Windhoek Representatives, and SWAPO"]

[Text] Windhoek — A high-level meeting of the main parties involved in the Namibian conflict is to take place very soon in Lusaka (Zambia) under the auspices of President Kaunda, a well-informed source in Windhoek stated Wednesday, 2 May. This unprecedented conference, which could be a decisive step in the development of the Namibian conflict, has not been officially confirmed.

Mr Willie van Niekerk, South African general administrator of Namibia, simply told us that "a negotiation process is under way," refraining from giving details which, according to him, might damage the smooth running of the current preliminary negotiations. He added that this meeting "is possible, but at present there is nothing definite." Nonetheless, he confirmed that a delegation of the Multiparty Conference, grouping six of the main Namibian political parties, intended to make an "African tour," but that neither the countries to be visited nor the dates were yet known.

However, according to a reliable source, the first stage on that tour will be Lusaka, where a summit will very probably bring together the SWAPO leaders, South African representatives, the Multiparty Conference [MPC] delegation, and the Zambian authorities. Several signs corroborate this information. First the visit to Lusaka on 2 May of Mr Niko Bessinger, a representative of SWAPO's internal wing.

Second, the visit to the Zambian capital on 25 April of South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha, his Defense Ministry colleague, General Magnus Malan, and Mr Willie van Niekerk, during which this "round-table" meeting was very probably discussed. Finally, Mr Theo Guribab, SWAPO representative to the United Nations, stated in New York on 1 May that his organization was prepared to discuss a "cease-fire" to end the "occupation" of Namibia by Pretoria, with a "South African colonial delegation" comprising members of the multiparty commission.

In addition, MPC members are subsequently to visit five other French-speaking African capitals: Gabon, Ivory Coast, Senegal, Morocco, and perhaps Togo, where talks at the highest level are scheduled. This 3-week tour supported by South Africa, which is making the preparations for it, might also be extended to the United States.

According to one of the MPC members, its aim is to present "the real Namibian situation" and a "charter of fundamental rights and objectives intended to safeguard the cultural, religious, and linguistic identities" of each of Namibia's ethnic groups.

An Important Step

This charter, adopted on 18 April by the six parties in the MPC — especially the National Party, the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, the Southwest African National Union, the Rehoboth Liberation Front, and the Labor party — after 6 months of discussions is a victory for the members of the MPC Political Committee. They think that it is a major step toward a Constitution, which, in their view, must be drafted before any elections, contrary to the recommendation of UN Resolution 435.

This resolution, passed in 1978, makes provision in particular for the establishment of a cease-fire, the withdrawal of South African troops, and the holding of elections with UN monitoring. The MPC members think that Resolution 435 can no longer be regarded as the only means of achieving independence. Pretoria, like Washington, thinks, however, that the Namibian deadlock can only really be broken with the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. The MPC members, however, prefer not to wait,and think, despite everything, that the adoption of their "charter of fundamental rights" provides real hope for a settlement.

There is a degree of optimism in Windhoek. If the Lusaka preliminary negotiations take place, a new step will have been taken toward dialogue in southern Africa. Indeed, for the first time since the failure of the Geneva conference in 1981, SWAPO will have official talks with the South African authorities. This will also be the first time that this organization, which has been struggling to obtain independence for almost 18 years, has had discussions with Namibia's internal parties, which it has always ignored, regarding them as "Pretoria's puppets." Finally, it will also be the first time that African countries, by receiving them, have recognized the existence of those parties, whose legitimacy the OAU and United Nations have always refused to recognize. In 1973 the UN General Assembly named SWAPO alone as "the Namibian people's authentic representative." If the Lusaka meeting does take place, it will take place shortly after the signing of agreements in that same city on 16 February between Angola and South Africa and the conclusion of a nonaggression and good-neighborliness pact between Pretoria and Maputo on 16 March.

Nonetheless, there are serious disagreements among Namibia's political parties (there are officially 23 of them) and a constitution will not be drafted without difficulty. According to General

Meiring, commander in chief of ground forces in Namibia, Mr Sam Nujoma's organization, severed from its home bases in Angola since the Lusaka agreement and weakened by the relentless war which South Africa has been waging on it (170 people killed since 16 February and 6,470 since April 1979), is "on the point of defeat." Nonetheless, it is still very popular and its political opponents fear it. If SWAPO takes part in the Lusaka meeting, it will probably not be to eat humble pie.

Paper Questions U.S., UK Silence Over Terrorism

MB041419 Windhoek DIE REPUBLIKEIN in Afrikaans 26 Apr 84 p 4

[Editorial: "Who's Silent Now?"]

[Text] Following the bomb explosion in Ovambo in which two Americans lost their lives, there was literally a worldwide uproar. The United States expressed its condemnation and the British theirs. So did various organizations, including the Namibian Council of Churches [NCC], and SWAPO loudly denied responsibility for any involvement in the bomb blast. But since then there have been other explosions. And in these explosions, too, people have lost their lives — five in all. And now there is suddenly silence. The NCC apparently has not heard of the explosions and deaths yet. America is silent, Britain is silent, and SWAPO is silent. Must we assume that a Vambo is any less a person than is a foreigner in the eyes of certain people and governments? A number of questions need asking of those who are now silent:

Why is SWAPO so silent over these explosions? Is it because it knows no one would believe its claims of innocence, or is it because it wants to give a message to the people of the territory and the international community that it has a military presence in South-West Africa/Namibia?

Why is the NCC so silent? The NCC is quick to believe anything that is opposed to the security forces, and to condemn it loudly. But will they ever be prepared to condemn SWAPO by name? Or is the NCC first looking for 'evidence' of any acts of violence in which SWAPO is involved? Does the NCC have any doubt as to what SWAPO is up to with all the Russian arms captured by the security forces? Surely the terrorists do not need such equipment in order to attend mass in South-West Africa/Namibia, or in order to feed the starving, clothe the naked, or give employment to the unemployed? For that one needs equipment which is vastly different from these murderous weapons.

— To an extent, the silence on the part of the Americans and the British is understandable. They would surely not wish to condemn every bomb explosion. But they could make themselves heard in other ways. They could withdraw the hospitality accorded to SWAPO for its propaganda campaigns. They could lock their doors to this organization which is in the grip of the Russians. They could bundle these instruments of Soviet imperialism out of America and Britain. But they are not doing this. Why are they so inactive against an organization which, through its acts of violence, is directly opposed to the declared policy of antiterrorism of these two countries?

South-West Africa considers America and Britain to be friendly countries, as two countries in the forefront against Soviet expansionism. But it is discouraging to accept that they cannot tackle the issue on their own home ground by putting their words into practice. May we ask: What do they stand to lose by concerted bold action? Right or wrong, there is at least one Western country which is prepared to back its words with action, and that is South Africa. Were it not for South Africa's actions in southern Africa, the Soviets' problems would be fewer.

SOUTH AFRICA

Finance Minister on Keeping Sealanes Open

'AB071340 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] The minister of finance, Mr Horwood, says South Africa is determined to keep the vital sealanes around the Cape open and secure despite the arms embargo against the country. Speaking at an investment conference in Johannesburg, he said this was necessary because two-thirds of the West's oil supplies and almost a third of its food supplies were conveyed around the Cape. Mr Horwood said that despite the prophets of doom, South Africa had succeeded remarkably well in maintaining the political stability that was essential for foreign investment to prosper.

Recent accords between South Africa and other southern African countries would also serve to promote stability in entire southern African region. Mr Horwood also referred to the special attention being focused on industrial development in underdeveloped areas. He said attractive incentives were being offered for the decentralization of industry and there were encouraging signs that the process of decentralization was under way. It was hoped that the entire southern African region would eventually benefit from this strategy.

Mr Horwood emphasized the importance of gold as a major asset in the global monetary system. He said that the gold mining industry was an attractive investment outlet because gold continues to play a strategically important role internationally as a major reserve asset. Mr Horwood said that over the past 2 decades gold had also demonstrated its value as a hedge against inflation, currency uncertainties, and unfavorable political developments. However, despite the fact that gold was firmly entrenched in the world's monetary system, its monetary role still needed to be formally recognized and normalized. This would contribute to greater international financial stability.

15 Killed in Natal Factional Fighting

MB071454 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1000 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] A number of people have been killed in faction fighting on the Natal south coast. The fighting took place in the troubled (Umbumbulu) area. Carmel Ricard reports from Durban.

[Ricard] Fifteen people were hacked and shot to death this weekend in a fight between the (Mkanya) and (Mkize) clans. According to police, early on Saturday morning a large group of

(Mkanya) warriors attacked (Mkize) homesteads, killing 15 men, injuring an unknown number of others, and taking cattle away with them. Later on Saturday, police recovered the cattle, four homemade guns, and a number of traditional weapons. They arrested 111 people who are expected to appear in court some time today. Meanwhile, Natal's other faction fighting area, (Msinga), was all quiet over the weekend. Police officials said the new squad installed at Tugela Ferry last month seem to be effective and the situation was under control there. This weekend's violence at (Umbumbulu) followed a bloody Easter long weekend in which 35 people died in faction fighting in various parts of Natal.

UDF Urges Members To Stay Calm Following Assaults

MB071025 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0600 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] The United Democratic Front [UDF] condemned the assault on UDF members at Empangeni on Saturday. The Natal UDF leadership held an emergency meeting to discuss the incident yesterday. Carmel Ricard has the details:

[Ricard] The UDF said that about 250 people wearing Inkatha uniforms and chanting slogans of that organization had, in their words, invaded the hall and the stage where a combined UDF-May Day rally was being held. During the first speech hecklers on the stage and in the hall interrupted and then pandemonium broke out. UDF President Archie Gumede was knocked unconscious after being hit on the head with a chair. While he was out he was kicked, and he has extensive bruising on his body. Other UDF members were also hurt. All the injured have reported the matter to the police. The UDF slated the violence, but called on its membership to remain calm and not retaliate. Inkatha's national chairperson, (Frank Ngolosi), told me last night he knew nothing of the incident, but would issue a statement later today.

Lusaka Meeting Challenge to SWAPO Methods

MB070659 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 7 May 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] The proposal of a meeting in Lusaka of the main political parties of South-West Africa, those represented in the Multiparty Conference [MCP], has come at a crucial time. Such a meeting is not only desirable now but essential for achieving clarification of standpoints and securing commitments on political means and ends. Above all it would constitute a definitive challenge to SWAPO. At a time when peace initiatives are transforming international relations in southern Africa, SWAPO will have to meet the challenge positively or pay the price of alienation.

In recent months there has been a discernible improvement in the outlook for an independent settlement for South-West Africa. There has been progress in creating the environment of peace and stability that is the first requirement for setting in motion the necessary democratic political processes. Under the withdrawal agreement, the occupied region of southern Angola is being cleared of SWAPO and Cuban forces, thereby reducing the feasibility of big terrorist incursions. Inside Angola, the UNITA movement is pressing with growing military success its demand for a share in government and withdrawal of the Cubans.

There are still far too many uncertainties for predictions to be made about the outcome. Nevertheless, the developments placed renewed pressure of the South-West African political parties in terms of South Africa's clear policy that under its security umbrella it is up to the people of the territory themselves to determine their own constitutional future.

Their representatives, the political parties, have an obligation to define their policies and objectives to seek common ground where it exists and especially to reach concensus on the democratic basis of the independence process. The main internal parties have in fact been engaged in such an endeavor during the past 6 months of deliberations in the MPC. The notable exception has been SWAPO. While other parties have been working on a new constitutional framework for South-West Africa, SWAPO has been pursuing a course of rejection of all constitutionalism in its bid for power. Its leaders have repeatedly stated their intentions of maintaining the terrorist campaign. The large contingent of SWAPO terrorists who infiltrated the territory at the end of last year is still at large, that part of it that has not yet been rounded up. Its most recent activities include the bombing murder of two American diplomats at Oshakati.

SWAPO's record is one of consistent rejection of the democratic process. The challenge to it now is to decide whether it can meet the demands of the developing situation. It has to choose between joining the democratic consensus on South-West Africa independence or being written off and ruthlessly hunted as the biggest obstacle in the way of achieving that goal.

SWAZILAND

ANC's Tambo Will Not Visit Country for Talks

MB071930 Mbabane Domestic Television in English 1815 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] The president of the ANC, Mr Oliver Tambo, will not be coming to Swaziland, according to a spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The spokesman said Mr Tambo had cabled the ministry to indicate he was having problems getting a visa for Mozambique. Mr Tambo had been expected to arrive in the country for consultations with top government leaders either today or tomorrow, following the latest developments in relations between the ANC and the Swaziland Government.

SWAZI OBSERVER Cites Nzo Statement on Turnover

MB071052 Mbabane THE SWAZI OBSERVER in English 7 May 84 pp 1, 7

[By *OBSERVER* Reporter]

[Excerpt] The African National Congress (ANC) general secretary, Mr Alfred Nzo, yesterday made serious allegations and accused the Swaziland Government of "handing over to the

South African regime four ANC cadres who had been detained by police at Bhunya Police Station." Mr Nzo, in a press statement released in Lusaka, called on "the Government of Swaziland to ensure the immediate return to Swaziland of the four cadres." The ANC secretary general who could not further disclose when, where, and who was behind the alleged handover of the ANC cadres to Pretoria said in a press statement: "We have learnt with great shock that certain elements within the Government of Swaziland have handed over to the South African regime four cadres who had been detained by the Swazi Police Station.

"This astounding act of collaboration with the criminal Pretoria regime is a gravely hostile attack not only against the struggling people of South Africa, but also the peoples of Africa and the rest of the world who are opposed to the apartheid system.

"We call on the Government of Swaziland to ensure the immediate return to Swaziland of these four cadres. We further request the OAU, the United Nations, and all men and women of conscience everywhere to use their good offices to ensure that the Government of Swaziland retrieves these activists against apartheid from the hands of the torturers and assassins of Pretoria," Mr Nzo concluded in his statement.

The commissioner of police, Mr Titus Msibi, vehemently denied Mr Nzo's allegations and described them as "trash." "I just don't understand it," Mr Msibi said. "I have read similar reports in two South African newspapers which I have the slightest consideration." [sentence as published]

Mr Msibi recalled that two ANC Executive members who recently held a press conference in Mbabane also denied that Swaziland was handing over captured ANC cadres to South Africa.

"If you remember very well, you will recall that that was an official delegation from the ANC, but now this secretary general is coming with something else. I just don't understand what is going on. To me it is just a whole lot of trash." One South African newspaper, *THE CITY PRESS* in yesterday's issue claimed that some senior policemen were involved in the alleged "mysteriously kidnapping" of the four cadres. The commissioner said he had read the report and once again described it as "trash."

Minister Urges Israel To Seek Closer Ties

MB071935 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] The minister without portfolio, Mr Mhambi Mnisi, has called on the Swazi community to respect the diplomatic relations between the Kingdom of Swaziland and Israel. Speaking during the 36th independence anniversary of Israel this afternoon, the minister without portfolio said the Kingdom of Swaziland will continue under the policies laid down by the late King, despite the press reports that the country was breaking the policies of the United Nations and the OAU. Mr Mnisi said the Kingdom of Swaziland is confident of what it is doing, and said what is being reported by the press is funny politics, and called on the Israelis to make a close relationship with the Kingdom of Swaziland. Earlier on, the Israeli ambassador to Swaziland said his country will continue to give technical assistance to Swaziland and strengthen the relationship which exists between the two countries.

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Hosts Dinner for French Industrialist

MB080624 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] His excellency the president, Dr Kenneth Kaunda, hosted a dinner for his guest, French industrialist (Jean de May), last night at State House. The president told his guest that he had been invited to Zambia to participate in the development of the country with the authorities. He said he was impressed during his visit to France by Mr (de May) when they held a short discussion, especially over the important work Mr (de May) is doing for mankind. In reply, Mr (de May) said he was pleased to be associated with expanding good links between Zambia and France and praised the stability in Zambia, saying Zambia is a showpiece of Africa. The dinner was attended by Prime Minister Nalumino Mundia; Agriculture and Water Development Minister General Kingsley Chinkuli; National Planning and Development Minister Henry Mbeelo; and several other senior party and government officials.

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe Notes Possibility of Reimposed Curfew

MB072031 Harare Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, says although the security situation has improved in certain parts of Matabeleland South, there are one or two areas where the curfew might be reimposed. Addressing a news conference after officially opening the 1984 Zimbabwe International Trade Fair, Comrade Mugabe invited the Western press and the Church to show the government where atrocities have been committed. In his opening speech, Comrade Mugabe stressed dismay at the lack of the fertility and (?patriotism) of some manufacturing companies, particularly in the clothing industry. He commended commercial farmers when he said they had done well despite 3 successive years of drought and recession.